AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER WEEKLY

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SEOUL BROTHER!

MARCONI'S WORLD CUP STAR PAN-KEUN KIM SHARES HIS WISDOM

PLUS...

Vaughan Coveny

Michael Brooks

Bernd Stange

World Soccer

Machlas & Owen: Men of Destiny

32 pages of Soccer Mayhem

SOCCER WEEKLY

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY
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◆ Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 3 days PRIOR to issue date.

THIS WEEK...

3....Australian news
4....Australian news
5....Australian news
6....Australian news
7....Australian news
8....Australian features
9....Australian features
10....Australian Soccer Woman
11....Ericsson Cup of Life Cover Page
12....Ericsson Cup of Life
13....Ericsson Cup of Life
14....Ericsson Cup of Life
15....National Youth League
16....Machlas & Owen — Men of Destiny
17....Machlas & Owen — Men of Destiny
18....Australian features
19....Global Game Pictorial
20....Asia
21....Croatia
22....Africa
23....Latino
24....Greece
25....Italy
26....Europe
27....Europe
28....Europe
29....UK
30....UK
31....UK

UK PREMIER SUMMARY

with Daryl Katz

Manchester United closed to within a point of Aston Villa at the top of premiership table after a 4-1 victory over Everton at Goodison Park on Saturday.

A match packed with goalmouth incident remained fiercely competitive for over an hour as United battled to overcome a game Everton side.

United started poorly and Everton captain Duncan Ferguson forced a save from Peter Schmeichel after just 14 seconds with a powerful left-footed volley.

After 14 nervous minutes United crafted the opening goal when winger Jesper Blomqvist found Andy Cole on the edge of the Everton penalty area. Cole chipped the ball into the path of Paul Scholes on the right and he crossed instantly for Dwight Yorke who hammered the ball home at the second attempt after Thomas Myhre blocked his initial attempt.

The goal seemed to settle the United nerves and they began to play with more assurance. Yorke headed over soon after and then almost sent Cole through on goal.

Amato of Rangers and Zetterlund of Dundee United... a scottish summary is on page 31.

A bizarre second goal for United followed after 24 minutes. Blomqvist, rampant by now, sent over a deep cross from the left and the ball was retrieved by David Beckham. He crossed to the far post where confusion between Craig Short and Dave Watson saw Short head into his own net past the motionless Myhre.

United now seemed in control, but Everton fashioned a goal in the 31st minute. Ferguson, always menacing in the air, rose above the entire United defence to place an emphatic header past Schmeichel from Michael Ball's free kick.

The goal galvanised Everton, and a spell of sustained pressure saw them finish the half much the stronger. Ferguson came close to a second goal, heading marginally high and wide.

Everton began where they left off at the start of the second half. Ferguson threatened again from a free kick, heading against the post, and Scottish international John Collins saw his shot from 18 yards come back off the upright with Schmeichel beaten.

Ivory Coast international Ibrahima Bakayoko then turned past Roy Keane and Jaap Stam in the United area and drew a good save from Schmeichel. When yet another Everton corner found Ferguson, he headed the ball down only for Craig Short to hook his volley past the post.

Everton were always likely to rue the missed opportunities and United showed their deadly effectivess on the counter attack just before the hour.

Scholes fed Blomqvist and he played Cole in behind the Everton defence. The in-form striker placed his shot across Myhre and in off the far post.

The goal seemed to deflate Everton and United regained the ascendancy in midfield through the inspirational Keane.

Six minutes later, United again attacked at pace. Following an Everton corner, Keane found Beckham on the halfway line. With multiple options available, he threaded the ball through to Blomqvist. Myhre came out to deny him initially, but the rebound bounced up kindly and the delighted Swede headed his first goal for United into an unguarded net.

The goal ended the game as a contest and United cruised home for the remaining 25 minutes. Paul Scholes came close to a fifth United goal when he shot against the post in injury time.

The complexion of the game might have changed had Everton taken one of their opportunities early in the second half, but with Keane imposing himself and Blomqvist simply brilliant, United weathered the storm to finish convincing winners.

GREYSTANES SOCCER CLUB
TRIALS
STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2
Founded 1970
1st Grade – U/21s, U/18s
TO BE HELD AT:
BATHURST STREET PARK
GREYSTANES
SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER 8.30AM
WEDNESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 7.00PM
SUNDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 8.30AM
WEDNESDAY 25th NOVEMBER 7.00PM
CONTACTS
MARK CRITTENDEN
(H) 9621-4298 ● (M) 0417 247 890
TONY WATERSON
(H) 9636-5297 ● (W) 9246-5096

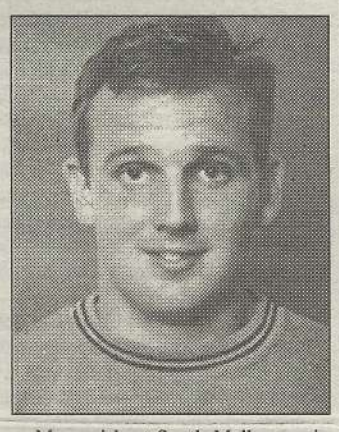
PARRAMATTA EAGLES SOCCER CLUB
UNDER 11 and UNDER 12 TRIALS
Parramatta Eagles Soccer Club will be conducting trials for the under 11 and under 12 Youth League Teams that will be particpating in the NEW NSW Soccer Federation competition.
TRIALS WILL BE CONDUCTED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:
Sunday 8 November 9am
Wednesday 11 November 6pm
Sunday 15 November 9am
Wednesday 18 November 6pm
To be held at Everley Park, Everley Road, South Granville.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION
MANAGER
COACHING & DEVELOPMENT
NSW Soccer Federation is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified persons who believe they have the experience and capabilities for performing the following duties:
• Management of State policies and programs for the development of coaches and players at all levels of ability
• Management of the requirements of the National Coaching Scheme
• Management of programs designed to increase levels of participation in the game
• Provide ongoing reviews and recommendations with respect to those policies and to maintain a progressive coaching and development structure in line with State and National Business Plans
• Preparation of reports and submission to NSWSF and other relevant bodies and authorities
• Assist with the management of NSW Institute of Sport Programs
• Preparation and maintenance of Budgets
This position offers an excellent opportunity to a self motivated person who will be pro-active in the achievement of the objectives set by NSWSF.
An attractive salary package will be negotiated with the successful applicant.
Apply in writing setting out qualifications and experience to:
General Manager
New South Wales Soccer Federation Ltd.
PO Box 6024
Blacktown Business Centre 2148 NSW
Closing date 10 November, 1998 at 4pm

PENRITH PANTHERS SOCCER CLUB
DIVISION ONE
1999 STATE LEAGUE TRIALS
Commencing
November 1998
9am-11am
U18s — U21s
PANTHERS PARK
MULGOA RD
PENRITH
Sunday 8, 15
HEAD COACH
STAN ACKERLEY
02 47 363 641

Australian News

WATKINS STEALS THE GLORY



When Daniel Watkins reads this he will be hard at work cleaning the boots of the established stars at Northern Spirit. Yet last weekend the apprentice turned master finisher as he scored his first ever goal. Perth Glory may have gone top of the Ericsson Cup, but the story of this blockbuster weekend was Daniel Watkins'.

With his team needing a goal, his coach replaces himself with the 18 year old Watkins to the words, "Just score, son".

And score he does. But not just any goal, this was something special. A barnstorming run of 50 metres ending in a cool finish and the roar of nearly 14,000 fans.

Northern Spirit gave their massive support something to really cheer about as they came home over a plucky Melbourne Knights 2-1.

And according to club officials they are expecting a "bumper" crowd this Friday night when they play the entertaining Wollonging City.

Soccer Weekly's advice? Get to North Sydney Oval early.

It was another encouraging weekend, with nearly 17,000 in Perth, almost 14,000 at Northern Spirit and over 5,000 at a windswept Wollongong.

Marconi beat South Melbourne in an extraordinary game, Olympic scored five at Bossley Park, Wolves drew at home with the Zebras, the Glory continued unbeaten, Strikers showed they are the league's new force with a fantastic home win over the high-flying Carlton, and on Friday night Gippsland travelled for most of the day, and eventually won 2-1 in Newcastle. Top effort Falcons.

All the Ericsson Cup you need to know is on page 11 onwards, including team of the week which features Socceroo Kasey Wehrman, who stood up to Carlton's Andrew Marth and tormented the Victorians. For that, the Socceroo is Soccer Weekly's player of the week.

TOBIN LEADS NEW-LOOK SOCCEROOS

As he left Sydney yesterday, Socceroo captain Alex Tobin was raring to go leading into Friday's (Saturday our time) clash with the USA.

Part of Tobin's excitement stems from the youthful Socceroo squad he is skippering, which boasts some of the most exciting names currently in Australia.

Kasey Wehrman, Simon Colosimo and Marco Bresciano give the national team a real edge, and Tobin believes it will be an interesting encounter, and one which we can do well in.

"Like us, they are going through a rebuidling stage but I am really looking forward to this. There are a few old-stagers in what is a squad that is looking towards the 2000 Olympics for us.

Meanwhile Japan-based Tony Popovic has been added to the 18-man squad.

"The young guys will be keen to impress, " said Tobin before flying yesterday.

So he will be off again, this time to LA, on yet another flight to play a game, and as the Socceroo legend says, "I've got enough frequent fliers to go to Pluto!" Well, let's hope big Alex is over the moon after this game.

If you want to see the game, it is on C7 Optus live this Saturday afternoon at 2.30, and as we go to press discussions were continuing with free-to-air broadcasters.

Great Soccer Books & Videos

1. Rothman's Football Yearbook 98/99 - **$60**
2. News of world Football Annual 98/99 - **$20**
3. Playfair Football Annual 98/99 - **$20**
4. David Beckham: My Story - **$35**
5. Frank Farina: My World Is Round - **$25**
6. Tony Adams: Addicted - **$50**
7. Glenn Hoddle World Cup diary - **$50**
8. Kevin Keegan: My Autobiography - **$50**
9. Diego Maradona: Hand Of God (H/back) - **$40** (S/back) - **$20**
10. George Best: A Portrait of a Legend - **$50**
11. Gianfranco Zola: 2 new books h/b **$50** or s/b **$30**
12. A Soccer Century: A History of WA Soccer 1896 - 1996 - **$20**

And many other soccer books & videos.

All credit cards personal cheques and Eftpos accepted.

9 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne
ph: (03) 9621 1211

Add $7 for P&H

NORTHERN SPIRIT v WOLLONGONG CITY

NORTH SYDNEY OVAL
THIS FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6

KICK-OFF 7.30PM Gates open 5.00pm

plus PRE-MATCH ENTERTAINMENT

and fantastic Fireworks

northern spirit f.c.

Australian News

AUSSIE WOMEN CONTINUE TO STAR

The Australian Youth Team were impressive in their 7-0 victory over senior division one club Wit-Rood-Wit last Wednesday night, their first match on tour in The Netherlands.

The Australians adopted well to the strong winds, heavy pitch and cold conditions during the game played in the town of Brielle. The Under 19 combination played some exceptional football in what was their first game together.

Megan Bond gave the visitors the perfect start with a goal after just five minutes, and Tracy Baker soon followed up to double the lead. Danielle Clarke and Kelly Golebiowski each scored late in the first half to send the Aussies in at the break with a 4-0 lead.

Danielle Small scored from the penalty spot ten minutes into the second half, with Bond and Golebiowski then each notching up their second goals for the match.

All sixteen players took the field in a game obviously dominated by the Australians.

The first scheduled match for the tour against club side Zwart-Wit 28 had been washed out two days earlier in Rotterdam. The Australians were therefore happy to finally play a game after training together over six days at the AIS Canberra and in Holland.

Assistant National Coach and National Youth Coach Chris Tanzey was very happy with the team's opening performance.

"The girls played the ball around well under extreme weather conditions," he said. "This game has given us our first hit-out which is critical in the lead-up to our first international this Friday against Holland."

Striker Jessica Halfpenny lasted only fifteen minutes in the game, feeling quite ill with a throat problem.

Australian Youth - Joanne Butland (Cassandra Kell 46), Danielle Clarke (Kate McShea 46), Rachael Alley (Amanda Parker 58), Louisa Bisby, Kimberley Morris, Peita-Claire Hepperlin [capt], Tracy Baker (Tal Karp 46), Amy Wilson, Megan Bond, Jessica Halfpenny (Danielle Small 15), Kelly Golebiowski.

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH TEAM 1 (own goal 65m) drew with THE NETHERLANDS YOUTH TEAM 1 (42m)

The Australian Youth Team came from behind to draw 1-1 with The Netherlands Youth and could have sealed a late victory in last Friday night's first test match played in Kloetinge.

A missed penalty late in the game cost the Australians what would have been a valiant opening win against the strong Dutch outfit.

The Australians made a nervous start in fine, though cold playing conditions. Preparations had been disrupted with a late change to kickoff time and match venue.

The home side created a couple of good shots on target in the first half but AIS-based goalkeeper Joanne Butland easily dealt with the danger. Australia stuck to their game plan, gradually becoming more dominant as the match progressed.

However the Aussie defence failed to clear a high ball on the edge of the box, and a Dutch attacker capitalised by heading the bobbling ball past the keeper to take the lead three minutes before half-time.

Australia entered the second half very determined to earn a result. They were rewarded in the 65th minute as striker Kelly Golebiowski was fouled outside the 18-yard box. The resultant freekick brilliantly played in behind Holland's defensive line left them scampering and forcing the ball into their own net for the equaliser.

Strikers Golebiowski and Jessica Halfpenny continued to cause havoc for the Dutch rearguard with the momentum now firmly in the visitors' favour. One such surging run ended in another foul on Golebiowski and the quality freekick hit the woodwork. With five minutes remaining, Golebiowski was again taken out, this time inside the box, but the penalty kick was not converted.

Assistant National Coach and National Youth Coach Chris Tanzey was very pleased with the performance despite the missed opportunity.

"We overran them fitnesswise in the second half and technically we're just as good if not better," he said. "The team stayed focused and displayed some excellent passages of play."

The team hopes to come away with a win from the second international and last match on tour, scheduled for Sunday 1 November in Middelburg.

Australian Youth - Butland, Clarke, Alley, Bisby, Morris, Hepperlin, Baker (Small 46), Wilson, Bond (McShea 65), Halfpenny, Golebiowski.

Bankstown City Lions SC

NSW SUPER LEAGUE 1999 SEASON

The Club will be conducting trials for the Under 18 & Under 21 teams for the 1999 season.

VENUE: Jensen Park
Claphan Rd, Sefton

DATES: 7 November (Saturday) 10.00am
8 November (Sunday) 10.00am
11 November (Wednesday) 6.00pm

Players must be ready to commence at the stated time.

Enquiries:
Club Secretary 9707 1559 (ah)

Stanmore Hawks Soccer Club
1999 TRIALS

Division One Youth League and Junior League

Wednesday 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th November
TEMPE RESERVE – Holebeach St, Tempe

Junior League Grades U/11 & U/12
Youth League Grades U/13, U/14, U/15 & U/16
Time: 6.00pm-8.00pm

Sunday 8th & 22nd November
MAHONEY RESERVE – Illawarra Rd, Marrickville

Times
Youth League Only

U/16	9.00am	U/14	10.30am
U/15	12 noon	U/13	1.30pm

Coaches required for U/11 & U/12

Contact: **Leo Harris 0417 678 607**

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

Tuesday 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th November & 1st December
Thursday 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th November & 3rd December
TEMPE RESERVE – Holebeach St, Tempe

1st Grade, U/21 & U/18
Time: 6.00pm-8.00pm

Contact: **Steve Economides 0419 686 569**

ON THE BUSES!

Carlton Soccer Club

Remember 'On the Buses'? Well you can re-live those days with Carlton by getting on their double-decker bus. What's more, it will take you directly to the ground to see Carlton play their home games. Above are some of Carlton's new fans who are using this unique service.

STANMORE'S SUCCESS STORY

Stanmore Hawks Soccer Club entered the Youth League approximately five years ago when its senior team won promotion to the NSW Super League.

The 1997 season was a successful one for the club with all four youth teams reaching the semi-finals. However, even this success was not enough to win promotion to Division 1.

So they set a target for 1998: namely: four competitive teams and hopefully at least two of them coming in the top two. By the end of the year they had achieved these results (right).

Promotion was dependant on the cumulative points gained by all four teams and they won the club championship by one point just ahead of Hills United who also gained promotion.

For the coming year they are anxious to consolidate their position in the higher division and expand the player base by introducing junior teams.

In this regard the NSW Soccer Federation is contemplating the introduction of elite junior teams for its Youth League Clubs for ages 11 & 12 similar to the representative teams now playing in the Junior League.

This is seen as a positive and exciting step forward and they are now anxious to recruit elite players aged 11 & 12 for the 1999 season (see ad left).

Grade 13
4th position and Grand Final runners up
Grade 14
2nd position and Grand Final Winners
Grade 15
1st position and Grand Final runners up
Grade 1
2nd position and Grand Final Winners

University of New South Wales Soccer Club is inviting applicants for the position of

First Grade Coach for 1999
Level 2 essential

Inquiries

Robert Devey
9584 9796 (ah)
rdevey@csr.com.au

Claire Treadgold
0417 204 476 (m)
ctreadgold@edfac.usyd.edu.au

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES SOCCER

State Super League: Bonnyrigg White Eagles
will be conducting Soccer trials for the Youth League teams U/13, U/14, U/15, U/16 and U/18, U/21s
Where: at the Bonnyrigg High School soccer grounds, cnr of Elizabeth Drive and Cabramatta Road, Bonnyrigg.

When: U/13, U/14
Every Monday and Wednesday in November & December 1998; January & February 1999
Time: 5.30pm to 700pm.

U/15, U/16
Every Tuesday & Thursday in November & December 1998; January & February 1999.
Time: 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

U/18, U/21s
Every Wednesday & Friday in November & December 1998; January & February 1999.
Time: 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

All interested players simply turn up to the venue on the above mentioned dates and times. For further information, contact Jack Cirjanic at The Bonnyrigg White Eagles office on
Ph: **9823 7714**

Australian News

KOREA CHANGE

By Aidan Ormond

An exciting aspect of Ericsson Cup version 98/99 is its multiculturality. Brazilians, English and even New Zealanders mix with Aussies of all backgrounds. The league, now more than ever, reflects the society we live in and the increase in crowds is perhaps a reflection of this.

One nation also part of this diversity is South Korea. A regular World Cup qualifier, this near neighbour has three players in the NSL: Dongi-Ki Kim (Adelaide City) Sang-Chul Yoon (Newcastle Breakers) and Pan-Keun Kim (Marconi Fairfield). Infact, last weekend, all three were playing in NSW with their respective clubs.

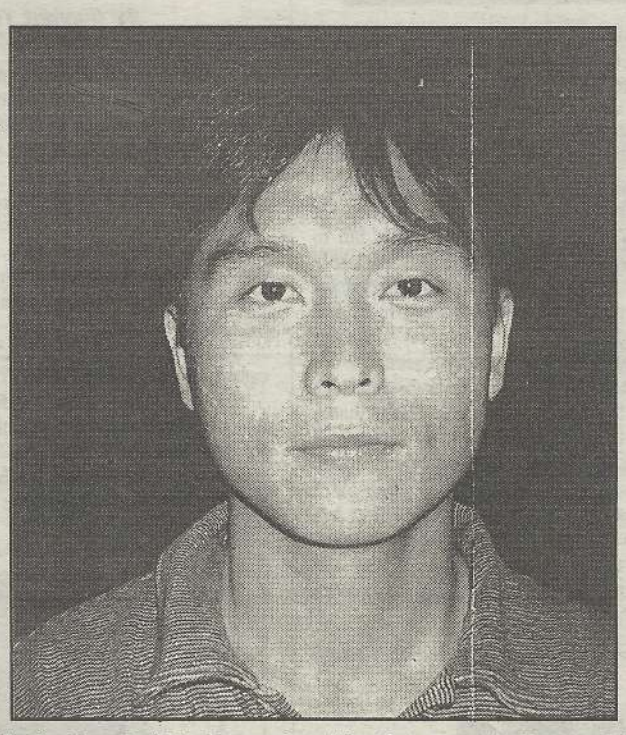
Sang-Chul Yoon scored 101 goals in the Korean league from 1987-97, so he is obviously useful.

Of Dongi-ki, Zebra coach Zoran Matic recently said that he wanted to sign the 27-year-old for three years, despite the player being on-loan from Pohang Steelers (who apparently are not too happy with him being out of the country). And there could be another midfielder arriving in Adelaide from the Hyundai club.

Meanwhile at Marconi, the player who originally was signed by Matic, Pan-Keun Kim, is continuing to wow fans with his class. In short, he has it all: perception, skill, temperament and immaculate distribution, topped off with a penchant for scoring the odd spectacular long-range effort and walk-up penalties. After all, you don't play in two World Cups for nothing.

Perhaps Japanese players will be tempted by our lifestyle and increasing professionalism in the future? Let's hope so. And Crystal Palace recently signed two of the Chinese national team. Is there a player or two in Bejing or Shanghai who could add to our game here?

Soccer Weekly had the pleaursure of speaking to Marconi's Kim (right), via his interpreter and manager Kasey Chan, and first asked him about the Australian style of game...



KIM: "I enjoy it here, although they have long balls here and it is a simple game."

SW: How would you describe the Korean game at club level, and why do they always seem to qualify for the WC?"

KIM: "Korean football is professional. Since from ten years ago all the players become pro, so they play thirty league games which prepares them well. For the national team there is plenty of chance to play against the best, Asian Championships plus they have hosted some of the best in the world."

"Korean players are all skill, if they get the ball they can do something with it."

SW: Speaking of your national team, how would you describe the outgoing national coach Cha?

KIM: "He was a world class player, playing in the Bundesliga for ten years, and I liked him as a player. However, he was not a good coach. He cut the experienced players and he did not listen to anyone, he just kept the younger players, and he did not listen, he thought he was best. That's why we lost so badly in France."

SW: Hey don't hold back Kim!! Anyway, back to Australia, can you make the finals here?

KIM: "Yes, compared to last year our best 11 is even better. Actually our squad is very equal and strong, there is depth. That is why it should be good for us and the Grand Final."

SW: It must be great having Frank Farina coaching.

KIM: "He is a good coach. Actually I met him in the WYC in 1983 in Mexico. I marked him I remember. After that we met in Korea and I marked him! He is a good friend and we support each other. I like a younger coach. He has a European style of coaching and he coaches well."

SW: Are there any players here that have impressed you?

KIM: "Only really Brett Emerton I think."

SW: There are a few Korean players here, what do they bring to our game?

KIM: "Korean players are professional, they have a good eye for the game. "They can see anywhere, they can get out from a hard position. They have skill because in schools skills are taught from a young age."

SW: Who do you think will lift the title this year?

KIM: "Marconi of course, but perhaps South Melbourne and Perth Glory. Carlton could make the top six."

SW: Your son was born here, will here play for the Socceroos!?"

KIM: "Well maybe, what I would say is that it is better here for kids because the children get to play on a good surface. In South Korea the children do not have lawn to play on, so the surface is better here."

SW: Do you like Sydney?

KIM: "Yes, it is lovely, but I also like Adelaide which is nice and quiet."

SW: How has your wife settled in to Sydney.

KIM: "She likes it here because in Korea many of the players are kept in camp or they go overseas to play games, so the wives are left alone, while here the family gets together more because we have more time. She may learn English also."

SW: Favourite player, Kim?

KIM: "I like Zinedine Zidane."

SW: So what makes a good footballer?

KIM: "Control of himself and looking after his body. He should love the game also."

Thanks Kim, and thanks to your manager for interpreting.

1999 SEASON TRIALS

Eastern Suburbs Wanderers

Want to be part of a winning club?

We have a new home stadium, with a great pitch.
New Club Head Coach – John Calleja (Level 3) &
we're heading up to Super Youth League

Become part of a very exciting 1999 with us

All Trials will be held in Centennial Park at the soccer pitches, to the right of Parkes Drive, beside Randwick Pond and behind the Equestrian Field.
(If in doubt, check in the Gregorys/UBD)

TRIAL DATES
Saturday 7th November
Saturday 14th November
Saturday 21st November

U13 Youth League	9.00am-11.00am
U14 & U15 Youth League	11.00am-1.00pm
U16 Youth League	1.00pm-3.00pm
U18 NSW Super League	1.00pm-3.00pm
U21 NSW Super League	3.00pm-5.00pm
Senior Women (State League Div 1)	3.00pm-5.00pm

All enquiries, including *First Grade* to:
John Calleja (9554 4213 a.h.)
or John Velthuys (0418 664 796)

St. George Soccer Association Inc.

YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS
as previously scheduled
are being held at Peakhurst Park,
Trafalgar Street, Peakhurst

Under the direction of LEO CARLE

Tuesday: 3rd November 1998 at 6.00pm
Wednesday: 4th November 1998 at 6.00pm
Thursday: 5th November 1998 at 6.00pm
Friday: 6th November 1998 at 6.00pm

For further information please contact
Dot Buckley on 9553 0808

ST GEORGE B.S.C. TRIALS

SENIOR, UNDER 21s & 18s SQUADS

Tuesday, November 3rd 1998

ST GEORGE STADIUM
Bestic St, Rockdale

For further enquiries please contact Veronika

9599 1855 or 9599 3359

PO Box 395
Brighton Le Sands NSW 2216

Nepean-Panthers

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

SELECTION TRIALS
15th, 22nd & 29th
NOVEMBER
2.00pm-4.00pm
Cook Park, Wilson St,
St Marys

For further information contact
Don Gomez on (02) 9670 2198

Proudly sponsored by Penrith Mazda

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS
SOCCER CLUB

YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS

Saturday 7th, 14th, 21st November
also every Wednesdays
all youth grades
U13s, U14s – 10.00am
U15s, U16s – 12.30pm
Sunday 8th, 15, 12nd November
and every Thursdays at 5.30pm
SENIOR TRIALS
First Grade ❑ Second Grade ❑ Under 18s 10.30am
VENUE:
Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre
210 West Botany St, Arncliffe
(ENTRANCE OPP. TERRY & SPRING ST)

All the youth and senior trials will supervised by the newly appointed coach and director of coaching Gerry Gomez, and his staff.

Youth League Coordinator also required and Coaches Position still available U13s, U14s

PHONE ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL JIM ON
9567 2363 or 019 666 195

Australian News

HAVE YOUR SAY...

NAUGHTY SOCCER SPICE

In response to Soccer Spice's last column, I would like to beg of her to please stop encouraging women to check out the "delightful specimens" of the world game.

Believe me, I am by no mean implying that all women attend matches to peruse the assets of the players. Some actually have a passion for the sport, my girlfriend included - but there was a time, although several years back, when her passions were, let us say, misplaced.

Travelling back a season to a Sydney derby match, my friends and I had started commenting on how some of the World's soccer legends wore the number 10 jersey. Pete, Maradona and Del Piero being among the names supplied as evidence to iour theory.

My girlfriend wanting to voice her opinion on the subject, glanced at the field and added, "Oh, he's a ten alright!" Following my beloved's gaze, my eyes rested upon the sight of Sean Babic stretching. Let me just add that the number on his jersey was clearly not a ten!

Whilst all my friends were anxiously searching for which number 10 player she had been referring to, I stood there dumbfounded, then gave my girlfriend a disapproving look.

I was filled with mixed emotions. On the one hand I was relieved that she did not need to see an optometrist. (It seems that she was quite aware that Babic's number was 16). However, the relief I felt was quickly crushed by the shocking realisation that past trips to the soccer had been to admire those on the field rather than to spend time with her beloved.

She is now over this. (I hope!) I have watched her grow to not only worship those on the field but to love the game as well. Proof of this remarkable attitude change is shown by her running commentary throughout the match. What was once "He'd look great in a pair of shorts", has been transformed to "He crosses the ball woth such pinpoint accuracy".

Like giving Candy to a child, nothing brings more joy than hearing her whisper the words "Babic had a terrible game". It won't happen often - actually I doubt it will ever happen, but hey, a guy can dream can't he!

One last thing - I am still convinced that her attraction to Soccer Spice's column that week stems from her appreciation of literary genius, and had absolutely nothing to do with the picture of Sean Babic adorning the page.

P.C.
Greenacre

NAUGHTY ABC

Could someone explain to me exactly what is happening to the television coverage of the Ericsson Cup on free-to-air TV?

It would appear from the little I've managed to get out of the media that Channel Seven has farmed out the rights to the ABC for some time. They give us a live game on Sunday afternoons at 5.00pm.

How can that be better than one hour of highlights from all the matches in prime time? Apart from SBS's World Sports and a little on Sports Tonight you'd never get to find out the results or sce any highlights.

Won't this telecast time interfere with spectators' ability to attend matches?

Thank goodness for the video recorder. If the geographical television coverage of the game was one of the issues in the new contractual arrangements, then why wasn't the ABC given replay rights to those areas not serviced by SBS?

We all remember the scant regard given to our game by the commercial channels and the ABC at various times, why should we expect things to have changed?

In fact, according to the completely disinterested lady I spoke to at the ABC in the Sports programming Department, what you see is what you get!

Hopefully that won't again include leaving a live telecast in stoppage time to maintain a commitment to a five minute cooking segment.

Having said that, I think the actual presentation of the program and the job done by the commentary team has been pretty good.

At least we got to see highlights of almost every game in the half time break. All in all, I think the jury is still out on these new arrangements, but at least they haven't buried the soccer at some ungodly hour of the night as has happened before.

Perhaps all followers of real football should inundate the ABC with telephone calls and letters demanding a better deal. It is our eight cents after all.

John Rutter
Nunawading, Victoria.

HORVAT TO GET HEAVY WITH KNIGHTS

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Melbourne Knights coach Vid Horvat has indicated that he will make some hard decisions this week on his squad.

Some players will be told whether they are still required by the club.

"There are some players here who would be better off at Premier League clubs" Horvat said (right).

"That's a good competition. They would be better there than playing here in the youth team.

"Then after a couple of months they could come back here if they are ready."

One of these players is former Ghanaian youth team captain Ransford Banini (below).

Horvat has been disappointed with Banini's constant injury complaints and dropped him for the game against Northern Spirit.

Leadership on the park has been a real problem for the Knights with only a couple of players falling into the category of experienced.

"I never talk about (former skipper, Andrew) Marth, I never saw him play.

"We have so many young players here, not enough leaders. Tom Pondeljak is experienced and a good player, but he is not a leader."

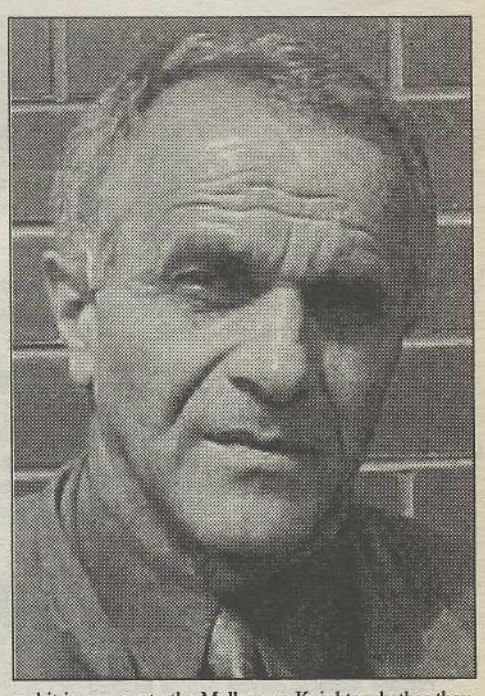
The Knights have made a terrible start to the campaign, losing their first two games, but play their next six matches in Victoria.

Horvat concedes they are still a long way off from being a team that can compete with the top sides in the league.

He said that the club will be strengthening the team in the next couple of weeks, with one player from Britain possibly being signed.

One player they are likely to sign this week is defender Craig Deans from Western Australian state league club Western Knights.

Deans, 24, is still contracted to the Western Knights



and it is now up to the Melbourne Knights whether they sign him or not.

"It's up to them, I'd love to play for Melbourne Knights" said Deans.

But the signing of Deans seems a formality as he is exactly the type of player that Horvat is looking to add to the squad.

Deans trained with the Knights for a period last season under Ken Worden, but returned to WA to win the championship and cup with Western Knights.

He said he had the opportunity to play for Perth Glory, but favoured a move to Melbourne.

"I thought the Knights would be a better club to come to than Perth Glory" explained Deans.

"I'm not to keen on them (Glory), I don't get on with some people there.

"Part of the reason I want to come to the Knights is because I think they want to win something more than Perth Glory at the moment."

Deans said that the opportunity for him to play for the Glory is still there should things not go to plan with the Knights.

"I spoke to Bernd Stange and Mich D'Avary and they said they'd be happy for me to stay there but I wanted to come to Melbourne. They've left the door open for me if it doesn't work out here."

COACHING POSITIONS

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Monica Mansilla
(Junior secretary)
After Hours on
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Australian News

ALAGICH COACHING

No 2 of a series by specialist coach Richard Alagich

The first phase of development - fun phase
Level 1: 5 to 8 years

The 'ripe' age to start with controlled systematic coaching is around the age of 9 to 10 years.

Many coaches will no doubt agree with this but then ask the quest — what do we do with players that have yet to reach this ripe age? My attitude is if these youngsters want to play soccer then we should let them play.

Players at this level or age should not be subjected to the technical, tactical, physical and competitive pressures.

It has to be remembered that this is their fun period; training and playing should be for fun.

The competition should be small-sided and informal — small-sided simply because there is more touch of the ball, less distance to cover between the two goals and all players are able to defend their goal and attack to score goals.

Informal, no points, because we get away from the winning emphasis with pressure being placed on the players to win.

In this way there is total freedom in the game, and this is what players enjoy most.

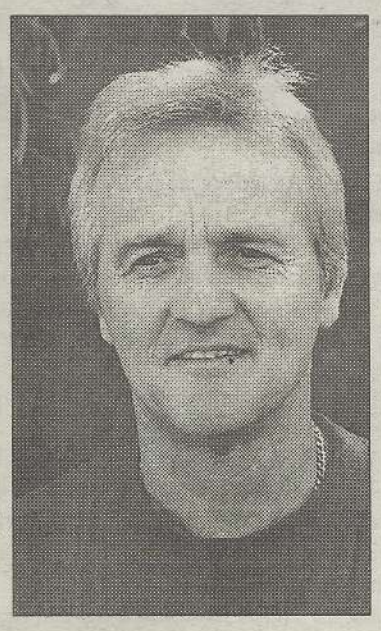
Coaches have to understand that players at this early age are not motivated to learn the repetitious technical elements, have limited concentration spans and are very easily distracted.

I would include, for this level, elements of agility in their air and on the ground along with helpful tactical fun games.

The development of agility (gymnastics) in the air and on the ground is necessary for the creating a solid basis for the structured movements of soccer players with or without the ball.

I would also emphasise that these gymnastic elements only be conducted under the guidance of a qualified gymnastics coach.

Exercises on the trampoline, mats, mini-trampoline, vaulting box and balance beam, followed by small games would be an ideal fun training session.



However, if a club does not have such facilities available then the introductory part of the coaching session should be made up of helpful tactical fun games followed by a small-sided game.

At this level the players should be encouraged to play soccer without the pressure of trying to win and of being an instant success.

In my next article I will expand on the question of the second phase of development — technical phase.

WITH REBECCA

Each week Soccer Weekly's roving reporter, Rebecca Stanton, chooses an Australian Soccer identity, and has a chat. This week it's the new Wolves striker, Michael Brooks (pictured right).

1: Michael, you've been in Wollongong a few months, how are you settling in on the lovely South Coast?
Very well thank you. Everybody in the 'Gong have been great.

2: Describe super-coach Nick T?
Hard but very fair. Communicates very well.

3: In a word, describe yourself.
Determined.

4: Why should fans turn up to Brandon Park to see the Wolves?
Because we feel we have got a good enough team to do something this year.

5: If you won the Grand Final this year, how would you celebrate?
Go Troppo for a month.

6: How is the 'Guess the Buns' promotion going?
Very well, great response.

7: Outside of football, what do you enjoy doing?
Relaxing, playing golf.

8: Favourite holiday destination and why?
Bali, because it's Bali

9: Your ideal woman?
My wife Paula.

10: In 20 years, where do you think you will be and what do you think you will be doing?
Coaching, getting grey and restless.

11: Favourite music and favourite movie?
General Pop and Shawshank Redemption.

12: Who is the best Soccer player in the world and why?
Batistuta, his goals say it all.

13: If you were PM for a day, what would you do?
Take a paid holiday and give everyone the day off.

14: Is it true you are a chick magnet or is that just a rumour?
My wife would not appreciate this question ... but it is true.

15: Complete this sentice: Love is.....
Loving my wife, and just being me!

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Australian Features

THIS KIWI REALLY IS ON CLOUD NINE

By Dwyght Tuffnell

South Melbourne striker Vaughan Coveny has started the season in fantastic style. Coveny scored in each of his first three games and has won a regular spot in a team that boasts as much depth as any other in the league.

The New Zealand international began his career in Australia with Melbourne Knights before moving to Wollongong Wolves.

It was after a terrific spell with the Wolves that alerted South to Coveny and they brought him back to Melbourne.

It says much about South Melbourne's squad that Coveny hasn't been able to win a regular starting spot in the first eleven.

Coveny has to battle with John Anastasiadis, Michael Curcija and Jim Tsekinis week-in-week-out for a starting place.

Coveny shows his attacking style for South.

He came off the bench to score the winner against Gippsland Falcons in round one, scored against Adelaide Sharks the following week and then turned in one of his best performances in a South Melbourne shirt, netting twice against Newcastle Breakers.

"I don't think I'm playing any different. I just hope the good form continues" says Coveny.

He says he had the chances in that game to get a hat-trick, he even had a goal disallowed for offside, one he had to take a bit of stick for.

Curcija had lobbed Breakers 'keeper Bob Catlin and the ball appeared to be bouncing into the net, until Coveny stuck his foot out and really made sure.

"I honestly didn't know if it was going in or not, they (team mates), told me it was."

The criticism he receives from his team mates, light-hearted of course, is a regular occurrence for Coveny.

"I'm always copping heaps of stick from these Aussies, they destroy me, but I give it back."

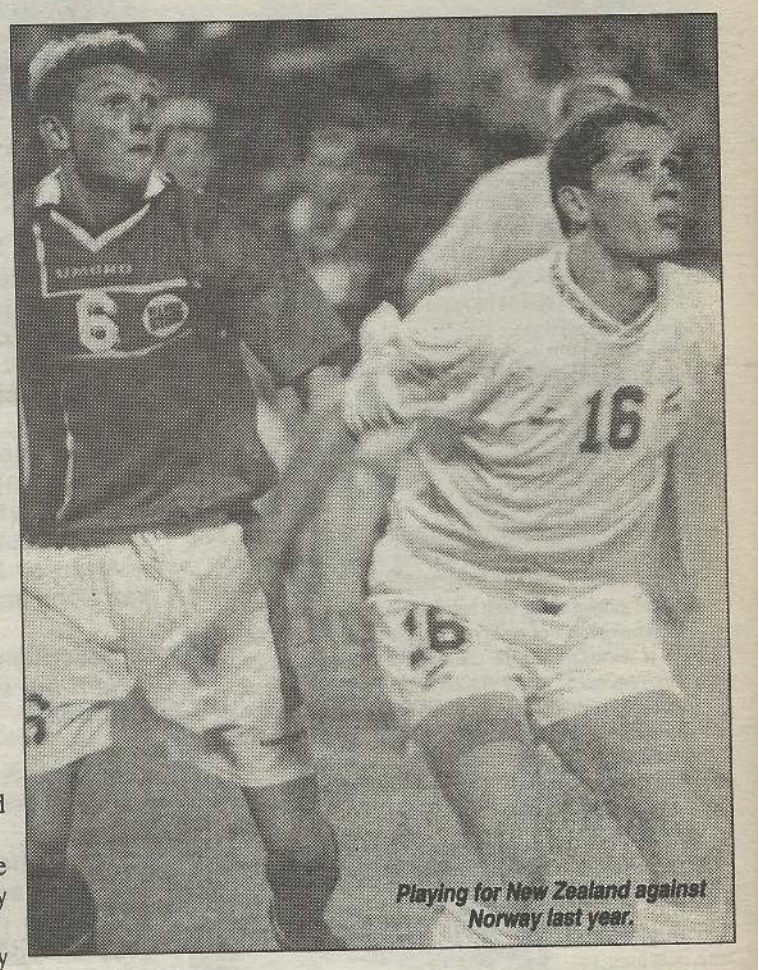
The South supporters have an unusual relationship with the gangly forward.

At times, he is brilliant lethal finishing with explosive pace have often made him look a world beater.

But then there are games when it seems he cannot do anything right, games in which he will miss two of three scoring opportunities.

He's unpredictable, often frustrating, but that's the best part about him.

The mickey-taking has intensified since New Zealand knocked off the Socceroos in the Oceania Nations Cup for a berth in the lucrative Confederations Cup in January.



Playing for New Zealand against Norway last year.

South coach Ange Postecoglou was always going to be a no win situation.

If, as expected, Australia won, he faced the prospect of losing Paul Timboli, Goran Lozanovski and Fausto De Amicis amongst others. But now he'll be without Coveny for a few weeks in January, and if he keeps up the form he's in now, he'll be sorely missed.

Now Coveny can look forward to a decent pay day when the Confederation Cup comes around.

New Zealand's federation is apparently broke ("They've always struggled" says Coveny), but some of the money that the tournament will earn the Kiwis should find it way to the players.

New Zealand were grouped with World Cup winners France and runners-up Brazil.

But now the French have pulled out and there are suggestions that the Brazilians will be sending a second string team to Mexico.

"It's disappointing that France have pulled out.

"But it's going to be great playing against those guys, no matter who's there."

Despite this, Coveny stops short of saying that the Kiwis have a chance in the Confederations Cup.

But, according to Convey, the sport in New Zealand has been given a boost by the victory over the Socceroos.

Since the 1982 World Cup, we haven't done anything, this is big news back in New Zealand and now that the All Blacks aren't doing so well, the country is getting behind us."

ADELAIDE CITY STATS

Honors

National League Champions: 1986, 1991/92 & 1993/94
National League Runners-up: 1992/93 & 1994/95
National League Finalists: 986, 1989/90, 1990/91, 1991/92, 1992/93, 1993/94, 1994/95, 1995/96, 1996/97 & 1997/98
National Cup: 979, 1989, 1991/92
South Pacific Cup Winners: 1987
SA State League: 1953, 1954, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1963, 1964, 1967, 1970, 1972 & 1974
SA Cup: 1953, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1965, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 & 1973
Coca Cola Cup: 1971, 1972 & 1973
Ampol Cup: 1962, 1967, 1974, 1981, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1991 & 1992
Escort Cup: 1976, 1979, 1980, 1981 & 1982

Founded: 1946
Assistant Coach: Joe Mullen
Home Ground: Hindmarsh Stadium
Playing Strip: Black & White vertical stripes, black shorts
Nickname: Zebras
Highest Goalscorer: Damian Mori - 31 goals in 1996 - new National Soccer League record.
Longest Serving Player: Sergio Melta 445 games - National Soccer League record.
Longest Serving Coach: Zoran Matic - 10 seasons 278 games - National Soccer League record
Record Consecutive Games: Robert Zabica (Goalkeeper) 170 straight games from January 1988 to October 1993 - National Socer League record.
Worlds Fastest Goal was scored by Damian Mori in 1996 versus Sydney United.
Record Win: National League - 10-3 against Mooroolbark in 1977 State League 13-0 against Orange.
Record Defeat: 7-1 against Brisbane in 1996

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Australian Features

LIFE'S JUST CHIPPER FOR WOLVES' QUIET ACHIEVER

Soccer Weekly's Rebecca Stanton meets one of the league's brightest prospects, Scott Chipperfield...

Wollongong's striker Scott Chipperfield maybe humble, modest and shy but the 22-year old is definitely not shot-shy, banging in the most goals for the Wolves last season. And the young talent hopes he can do the same this year.

For Scott, Soccer has always been a family affair, coming from a totally devoted household of soccer players which includes his uncles, aunts, sister and to my surprise even his mum, Scott was destined to make soccer a career.

Chipperfield was born and raised in Wollongong and began playing when he was four. His National Soccer League career started with the Wolves at the age of 20, signing a three year contract.

According to Scott it's too early to comment on be his next move after his contract expires, but he did say he would like to stay with the Wolves – he just has to wait and see.

"Scott is very technically skillful, with explosive speed he and has the ability to by-pass his man with the ball, which not many players can do," said fellow teammate, Robbie Stanton.

Chipperfield is unable to pick fault with the Wollongong fans and believes their support boosts team moral.

"They're really very supportive, plus they're extremely vocal and they always get involved in the game. Last year I think we only lost two home games all season and I definitely think the large crowds helped the boys play a lot better," explained Scott. Last weekend they pulled over 5,000, despite poor weather.

The striker's life unfortunately isn't strictly soccer and instead he juggles a full-time job in public transport and four nights a week of soccer training.

"I'm a qualified mechanic and a bus driver and often it's very demanding especially some days because you have go to work and then back it up with training, you definitely get a bit tired and sometimes the last thing you want to do is train."

According to Scott this season some of the professional teams may prove to be just that little bit stronger and it might be extremely tough to stay competitive.

"We train four nights a week, but professional teams like Carlton and Olympic might train twice a day, of course their fitness levels will be greater and their ball skills will be sharp, a lot of their players just concentrate on soccer, they've got no other worries but just to play soccer and that's it".

He received a call up into the Socceroo squad, just before the 98/99 season was about to start and, according to him, representing his country throughout the Oceania Cup qualifiers is probably the highlight in his career so far.

"I was a bit shocked when I first found out I had been selected, it was definitely a surprise that I didn't expect, the season was just starting and I honestly thought someone was giving me a prank call," said the modest Chipperfield

"Scott's performance last year was outstanding, his contribution from the left was excellent, based on this he deserved to make the Socceroos, there's no question about it, he should definitely be a future Socceroo," added the Wolve defender, Robbie Stanton.

The 22-year-old is aware that he has his work cut out for him to maintain his position in the Socceroos: "It will be very hard to stay in the side because there's a lot of good players out there, but you've just got to keep performing and hopefully you get picked again," explained the Wolves man.

At the moment he has his mind focused on the NSL in Australia, although his ultimate dream is to one day venture overseas. He even has a manager who is checking out some potential overseas opportunities for the future. But according to Scott if that doesn't work out he would be more than happy to stay in Australia and play as well as he can and as long as he can in the NSL.

His busy life doesn't leave much time for socializing, so maybe that's why he's living the single life, although on the odd occasion he hits a few golf balls and he even admitted to have a punt here or there.

Although he's aware that every game this season is going to be tough he still deep-down believes that if the team can put all their hard work into practice then they will be highly competitive.

"If we get our act together we should do as well as last season, we have a better side this year but unfortunately the first two games we struggled a little bit so if we put it all together we should finish in the top six," said the positive Wolves striker.

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For further information please contact:
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December 7th
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SOCCER WOMAN

WITH JANENE MAR IN CANBERRA

It's time for the Ansett Summer Series

Suddenly it's that time of year again - time for the kickoff of the Ansett Australia Summer Series - the new-look 1998/99 season. Hot on the heels of the Matildas qualifying for the World Cup, now we can celebrate with a summer of top quality football with the best players from around the country all battling in the fiercest of competition.

The stakes are high. The Ansett Summer Series is seen as the best opportunity to catch the attention of the national coaches. With the second intake of AIS scholarships to be selected soon and the 2000 Olympics drawing ever closer, the chance is right here right now for aspiring players to stand up and sell their talent.

Then there's the state rivalries and the desire to win and to be there in the final at the end of it all. There are no easy games, no opposition that can be treated lightly. It will be the greatest of tests, physically and mentally, constantly intense and draining.

Lining up for this year's crown are the five ITC States and each has adopted a brand new catchy name - Canberra Eclipse (ACT), NSWIS Sapphires (NSW), Northern NSW Horizon (NNSW), QAS Sting (QLD), and Southern Stars (SA).

The one team missing from last season's competitors is Victoria who no longer has an ITC program. As usual the top players from outside the competing States are drafted into the Series at the discretion of National Coach Greg Brown.

This is the third season of national league and once again we are about to see an expansion on previous formats. Ten rounds of matches will be contested from the beginning of November to the end of February. In a more rounded and equitable system, gone are the two pools. Now each team plays home and away against all other teams. In total each side will play sixteen preliminary matches, playing two games each weekend. This compares to nine preliminary games in the previous two seasons.

Each round will see four teams in action over two different cities, the remaining side resting with the bye.

The series will come to a climax with an exciting two-match finals series, with the champion to be decided on the two-game aggregate score. Therefore there are no second chances of making the final - it is simply the top two teams on the ladder, the best and most consistent teams over the full season.

As usual the Series will go into recess over the holiday season, and this falls after Round 4 from December to mid-January. During this period in early January, the inaugural Australia Cup will see the Matildas take on Italy and Canada - three World Cup teams in battle. Please note, this event has moved from the original December dates.

The Summer Series is the thrill of putting it all together on the day, seeing all the hard work pay off, nailing that set play, combining as a unit, teamwork at its best.

It's all about heart, playing to your best every round, each weekend a challenge to back up for the second tough match after less than twenty-four hours. It's about being smart on and off the field, out-manoeuvring your opponent, and making the necessary adjustments to keep ahead of the opposition or to turn things around the very next day.

For us on the sidelines, what more could you ask for. This year's Ansett Summer Series is set to be a cracker of a spectacle. Get out there and support your team. Let's see just who can take the heat.

•

Featuring this weekend to kick off the new season is the replay of last year's grandfinal, with defending champions NSWIS Sapphires away to the Southern Stars at Hindmarsh Stadium. The star-studded Sapphires would have to be favourites at this early stage.

Of as much interest, Canberra Eclipse will host QAS Sting at the Ainslie Football Club. Both have injury problems but determined to snare the valuable early points. Northern NSW Horizon has the bye this weekend

Of significance also in this opening round is the number of Australian Youth Team players being able to back up fit and ready to go after they return from Holland tomorrow. All teams have at least two such players in their ranks.

CANBERRA ECLIPSE

Matildas: Traci Bartlett, Lisa Casagrande, Sarah Cooper, Angela Iannotta, Belinda Kitching, Amy Taylor
New Players: Angela Iannotta (Italy), Belinda Kitching (Qld), Amy Kilpatrick (ex-Vic), Nancy Foote (from USA)
Injuries: Traci Bartlett (knee - 3 wks), Sarah Cooper (knee - January)
Coach: Ian Murray (1st season as Head Coach)
'97/98 Placing: 4th
'97/98 Top Scorer: Lisa Casagrande (6 goals)

Coach Ian Murray says, "Our physical preparation has been quite good. We've been working hard as I've been trying to keep the ACT girls up to the same standards as the Australian players. Tactically, it's been a nightmare not being able to work with the whole team, with two in Holland and six at the AIS. But it's the same for all the team I suppose, and of course the National Team comes first."

"Otherwise, we're looking good - we'll be competitive. Maybe we can finish third - I can't see us going all the way. It all depends on how the Australian players can work in with what we've been doing at training, or vice versa. If it clicks, we'll do really well."

"Key players will obviously be the front two - Lisa Casagrande and Angela Iannotta. I'm expecting a lot from them because our style is an attacking one - we're going out to score lots of goals. Also PC Hepperlin I'm looking to as another key player."

NSWIS SAPPHIRES

Matildas: Katrina Boyd, Julie Murray, Joanne Peters, Bridgette Starr, Anissa Tann-Darby, Kaye Yardin
New Players: Bridgette Starr (NNSW), Alicia Cavanagh, Michelle Carney, Thea Slatyer, Amanda Parker (all rookies)
Injuries: Sarah Walsh (knee - 6 mths)
Coach: Jean-Paul de Marigny (1st season)
'97/98 Placing: Champions
'97/98 Top Scorer: Katrina Boyd (Series top scorer 9 goals)

Coach Jean-Paul de Marigny says,"We've been training well - I've been pretty happy. It hasn't been ideal without the Canberra players, although four of them have been training here for the last two weeks. And there's several over in Holland, but we had a good hitout against the Melita U15s the other day and played well.

"It's always interesting when you're defending the title. I'm really looking forward to the season. If everyone plays to their potential, then it should be a good season. I'm not chasing results as such. I'm more concerned with playing to our potential - and the rest will come."

"Key players? - The whole twenty. They all have a specific job to do - everyone is important - we have a lot of different individual qualities. I'm looking to the experienced players in a leadership role and the young players will learn from that."

"This Series will be great - exciting and very competitive, week in week out. It's challenging for the players and the staff. The competitiveness should be sensational."

NORTHERN NSW HORIZON

Matildas: Sunni Hughes, Tracie McGovern, Cheryl Salisbury, Shelley Youman
New Players: Cheryl Salisbury (previously in Japan, has played for VIC), Sunni Hughes, Sarah Fitzgerald (both played for NNSW in first season), Rachel Alley, Tracey Oldham, Julie King, Amber Neilson, Hayley Crawford, Ashley Wilson (all rookies)
Injuries: Shelley Youman (knee - 2 wks)
Coach: Mark Jones
'97/98 Placing: 6th
'97/98 Top Scorer: Bridgette Starr (3 goals)

Coach Mark Jones says, "Teamwork may be a problem. We've got a good squad on paper, but our trial game this weekend will be our only run together before our first match. The WSL finished a while ago, so most of the girls haven't played for some time. We've only just restarted training as the players needed to have some rest. So my concern is we'll go in fairly underdone."

"If we can get a good start, we'll only get better as we go. Last year we did well early but fell away after the break - we're looking to avoid that this year. Previous seasons have been disappointing for me. We haven't done as well as expected and that's what you're judged on. Hopefully this year we can show our true form. This is the last standing goal we haven't achieved - we've won the WSL and the Nationals. It's a good test for everyone really. Players wanting to make the Olympics really have to shine now and put pressure on others - this is the perfect opportunity."

"Rachael Alley hadn't figured in any plans twelve months ago, and now she's made the Australian Youth Team and will probably be starting as my left fullback. Tracy Baker is also now starting to show her true potential."

QAS STING

Matildas: Joanne Butland, Bryony Duus, Alicia Ferguson, Sonia Gegenhuber, Georgette Leake, Kim Revell
New Players: Bryony Duus, Toni Brescianini (both previously at US college), Jackie McMunn (rookie)
Injuries: Sonia Gegenhuber (leg - 4 wks), Kim Revell (back - 4 wks)
Coach: Gary Phillips (until December)
'97/98 Placing: 5th
'97/98 Top Scorer: Alicia Ferguson / Kim Revell (3 goals)

Coach Gary Phillips says, "Obviously had a limited preparation with the six players in Canberra, but the locals have trained really well despite the others being away. We've been working very well. Actually I think we've had a better preparation this time - we've played games and training five days a week, and we're looking alright."

"We can't wait for the first game and we're coming down to Canberra early (Wed). I'd like to get a good start. Obviously I hope to win all home games, and whatever we get from the rest is a bonus. It'll be tough to get in the final, but we'll wait and see. We'll just take each game as it comes - at this stage, my main concern is ACT."

"Lisa Dunne will be the captain and I'm very impressed with her attitude. She's really training the house down and realises this is her last chance to impress the National Coach. Tammie Thornton is also training well and looking fired up to get her spot back for Australia. Keeper Claire Nichols is working like I've never seen her before and also fired up. Sonia and Kim's injuries are a major setback to our aspirations but I have every confidence the others are up to it. Belinda Kitching will also be missed."

SA SOUTHERN STARS

Matildas: Sharon Black, Kristyn Swaffer, Natalie Thomas, Tracey Wheeler
New Players: Louisa Bisby (VIC), Maria Spagnoletti, Lia Augimeri (both rookies)
Injuries: Sharon Black (knee - 1 wk), Dianne Alagich (back - 2 wks)
Coach: Kevin McCormack
'97/98 Placing: Runners-Up
'97/98 Top Scorer: Sharon Black (7 goals)

Coach Kevin McCormack says, "Preparation has been an absolute nightmare but I'm sure it's the same for everybody. We've got injuries, Year 12 exams, and others who may not be able to play because they can't afford the levy, which is worrying."

"But apart from that, we're going to be fine. We've got eighteen games and we plan to be in the final. We have four home games to start which hasn't helped us in the past, but we'll try to get as many points early this time, then see how we go. We've made both previous grandfinals and always done it tough. We'll still be pretty hard to beat, but NSW first up will be difficult. We'll play to our best, have a really good time doing it, and if we win, it'll be a bonus."

"Key players will be Nat Thomas, Kristy Moore, Jessica Halfpenny and obviously Sharon Black. We also have four keepers vying for a spot."

ANSETT AUSTRALIA SUMMER SERIES

ROUND 1: Sat 07 Nov 98, Canberra Eclipse, QAS Sting AIN, 3.00pm
Sat 07 Nov 98, Southern Stars, NSWIS Sapphires, HND 3.00pm
Sun 08 Nov 98, Canberra Eclipse, QAS Sting AIN, 3.00pm
Sun 08 Nov 98, NSWIS Sapphires, HND, 11.45am, Bye - Northern NSW Horizon

ROUND 2: Sat 14 Nov 98, Southern Stars, Canberra Eclipse, HND 3.00pm
Sat 14 Nov 98, NSWIS Sapphires, Northern NSW Horizon STG, 3.00pm
Sun 15 Nov 98, Southern Stars, Canberra Eclipse, HND 3.00pm
Sun
15 Nov 98, NSWIS Sapphires, Northern NSW Horizon STG 3.00pm Bye - QAS Sting

ROUND 3:Sat 21 Nov 98, Canberra Eclipse, Northern NSW Horizon, AIN, 3.00pm
Sat 21 Nov 98, QAS Sting, Southern Stars, PRY 4.00pm
Sun 22 Nov 93, Canberra Eclipse, Northern NSW Horizon, AIN, 2.00pm
Sun 22 Nov 98, QAS Sting, Southern Stars, PRY 2.00pm, Bye - NSWIS Sapphires

ROUND 4: Sat 28 Nov 98, Canberra Eclipse, NSWIS Sapphires, AIN, 4.00pm
Sat 28 Nov 98, Northern NSW Horizon, QAS Sting CES 4.00pm
Sun 29 Nov 98, Canberra Eclipse, NSWIS Sapphires AIN 2.00pm
Sun 29 Nov 98, Northern NSW Horizon, QAS Sting EDG 3.00pm
Bye - Southern Stars

ROUND 5: Sat 16 Jan 99, Northern NSW Horizon Southern Stars, EDG 3.00pm
Sat 16 Jan 99, NSWIS Sapphires, QAS Stin, MAR, 3.00pm
Sun 17 Jan 99, Northern NSW Horizon, Southern Stars EDG 3.00pm
Sun 17 Jan 99 NSWIS Sapphires QAS Sting MAR 3.00pm, Bye - Canberra Eclipse

ROUND 6: Sat 23 Jan 99, QAS Sting, Canberra Eclipse PRY, 3.00pm
Sat 23 Jan 99, NSWIS Sapphires, Southern Stars STG 3.00pm
Sun 24 Jan 99, QAS Sting, Canberra Eclipse PRY, 3.00pm Sun 24 Jan 99 NSWIS Sapphires Southern Stars STG 3.00pm
Bye - Northern NSW Horizon

ROUND 7: Sat 30 Jan 99, Canberra Eclipse, Southern Stars, AIN 4.00pm
Sat 30 Jan 99, Northern NSW Horizon, NSWIS Sapphires EDG 3.00pm
Sun 31 Jan 99, Canberra Eclipse, Southern Stars, AIN 3.00pm
Sun 31 Jan 99, Northern NSW Horizon NSWIS Sapphires EDG, 3.00pm, Bye - QAS Sting

ROUND 8: Sat 06 Feb 99, Northern NSW Horizon, Canberra Eclipse, EDG 3.00pm
Sat 06 Feb 99, Southern Stars, QAS Sting, tba, 3.00pm
Sun 07 Feb 99, Northern NSW Horizon, Canberra Eclipse BUD 2.00pm
Sun 07 Feb 99, Southern Stars QAS Sting tba 2.00pm, Bye - NSWIS Sapphires

ROUND 9: Sat 13 Feb 99, NSWIS Sapphires, Canberra Eclipse tba, 3.00pm
Sat 13 Feb 99, QAS Sting Northern NSW Horizon SPT 3.00pm
Sun 14 Feb 99, NSWIS Sapphires, Canberra Eclipse tba 3.00pm
Sun 14 Feb 99, QAS Sting, Northern NSW Horizon SPT 1.00pm, Bye - Southern Stars

ROUND 10: Sat 20 Feb 99, Southern Stars, Northern NSW Horizon, tba 3.00pm
Sat 20 Feb 99, QAS Sting, NSWIS Sapphires, PRY 3.00pm
Sun 21 Feb 99, Southern Stars, Northern NSW Horizon tba 2.00pm
Sun 21 Feb 99, QAS Sting, NSWIS Sapphires, PRY 3.00pm, Bye - Canberra Eclipse

FINALS
Fri 26 Feb 99
The finals will be played between the top two teams over two matches with the
Sun 28 Feb 99, champion decided on two-game aggregate. The venue will be determined by AWSA
VENUES: AIN, Ainslie Football Club, 52 Wakefield Avenue, Ainslie ACT 2602, Canberra
BUD, Budgewoi Oval 1 Millington Way, Buff Point NSW 2262
Budgewoi CES, Turner Park, Aberdare Street, Cessnock NSW 2325, Cessnock
EDG Jack McLaughlan Oval, Park Street, Edgeworth NSW 2285
Newcastle HND, Hindmarsh Stadium, Manton Street, Hindmarsh SA 5007
Adelaide MAR Marconi Stadium, Marconi Road, Bossley Park NSW 2176
Sydney PRY, Perry Park, Abbotsford Road, Mayne QLD 4006.
Brisbane SPT Southport Soccer Club, Mualla Drive, Ashmore QLD 4214, Gold Coast
STG St George StadiumBestic Street, Rockdale NSW 2216 Sydney

ERICSSON CUP

RESULTS ROUND 4

Brisbane Strikers	1
Carlton	0
Newcastle Breakers	1
Gippsland Falcons	2
Northern Spirit	2
Melbourne Knights	1
Marconi Fairfield	5
South Melbourne	3
Sydney Olympic	5
Canberra Cosmos	0
Perth Glory	3
Sydney United	1
Wollongong Wolves	1
Adelaide City	1

NEXT ROUND

Friday 6th November
Northern Spirit v Wollongong Wolves
North Sydney Oval
Saturday 7th November
Gippsland Falcons v Marconi Fairfield
Mobil Park
Sunday 8th November
South Melbourne v Sydney Olympic
Bob Jane Stadium
Melbourne Knights v Brisbane
Knight Stadium
Adelaide Sharks v Newcastle
Hindmarsh Stadium
Sydney United v Carlton
Edensor Park
Perth Glory v Canberra
Perth Oval
Bye: Adelaide City

Please note, these fixtures are supplied by Soccer Australia, and are correct at time of printing. Please check local guides in case of changes. We accept no responsibility for any late changes to fixtures, or incorrect information supplied to us.

SOCCER WEEKLY'S TEAM OF THE WEEK: ROUND 4

John (Knights)

Kim (Marconi)

Sinozic (Wolves) Enes (Spirit)

Slater (Spirit) Marusic (Spirit) Halpin (Glory) Markovski (Glory)

Wehrman (Strikers)

Thompson (Falcons) Tome (Olympic)

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Perth Glory	4	3	1	0	8	3	10
Sydney Olympic	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
Marconi Fairfield	4	3	0	1	11	7	9
South Melbourne	4	2	1	1	8	7	7
Brisbane Strikers	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Carlton	4	2	0	2	9	4	6
Gippsland Falcons	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Northern Spirit	4	2	0	2	4	6	6
Adelaide Sharks	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Sydney United	4	1	1	2	6	7	4
Adelaide City	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Newcastle Breakers	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Wollongong Wolves	3	1	1	1	3	6	4
Melbourne Knights	3	0	0	3	2	7	0
Canberra Cosmos	4	0	0	4	3	12	0

1998/99

ERICSSON CUP

WEEK 4
30 OCT - 1 NOV
1998

SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT!

NORTHERN SPIRIT 2
Marusic 27, Watkins 86
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1
Karl 79
At North Sydney Oval, Sydney

By Mark Fowler

Under different circumstances, Northern Spirit's goal-scoring hero Daniel Watkins could be classed as a 'veteran' of the NSL. He made his senior debut way back in 1995, but although he's a striker it took him until the 86th minute of Friday night's game to score his first ever goal.

He actually made his debut at 14 for Parramatta Eagles. The 18 year old forward (pictured) looked sharp in front of goal in pre-season, and one moment of magic showed he has an eye for goal that either means he is a natural or a very good learner.

Picking up the ball only minutes after coming on as a substitute, Watkins ran from near the halfway line. He showed good pace and skill, and a poor attempted tackle from the last line of defence saw the ball bobble back into his path. With the Knights' impressive keeper Martin John to beat, Watkins had every right to panic. Instead, with a finish as cool as anything you will see, he slid the ball past the Melbourne custodian and into the net.

That Watkins was needed to perform the Spirit's second late winner in two weeks is another story in itself. How the Knights ever pulled it back to 1-1, and indeed could have gone ahead, is a mystery that I doubt anyone present could answer. The Spirit created chance after chance while the Knights created little, and Clayton Zane could be forgiven for thinking his first goal for the Spirit will never come. It is easy to look at his missed chances, but that takes away from two things.

Firstly, he was one of the best players on the pitch, and that he was outnumbered on many occasions never seemed to matter. He showed skill that belied his tall frame, and on another day will score the goals he deserved in this game.

The second feature was the goalkeeping of John. He looked solid throughout, and when it mattered made some excellent saves especially from the unlucky Zane.

Spirit took the lead after 27 minutes, at which point the Knights had rarely passed the half way line. Kresimir Marusic scored the goal in bizarre circumstances, and in a way that also summed up Zane's night. Zane brilliantly turned his man inside the box, and his attempted cross hit the defender, ballooned over John and hit the crossbar. The ball fell kindly to Graham Arnold, who instead of blasting it at goal calmly squared it to the onrushing Marusic. The Spirit's good fortune continued, as Marusic's shot from close in appeared to strike a defender, bounce back off Marusic and into the net.

In the opening half an hour the Spirit made four or five chances, but apart from Marusic's goal was unable to score. The Knights tried to reply immediately, but Kiratzoglou's strike was just off target. Marusic, reveling in his role and looking capable of doing anything, saw another shot after 32 minutes well saved by John, before the Spirit's best move of the game on 38 minutes. A beautiful Graham Arnold layoff not only rolled to a team mate but also rolled back the years, and Paul Bilokapic's bullet strike was pushed wide by, of course, Martin John.

'Billy' Bilokapic had his best game for the Spirit, and made amends for his needless sending off against Perth Glory. In fact, there wasn't a bad Spirit player on the field, as Robbie Enes ensured Ian Crook's absence through injury wasn't felt too much, and Michael Cunico also enjoyed his midfield role.

Graham Arnold chased and harried like someone ten years younger, while Robbie Slater and Luke Casserly combined well on the right hand side.

Arnold had a 'goal' ruled out for offside just before half-time, than right on the stroke of the break the Knights should have equalised. A poor pass from defence let the Knights through, but the resulting shot was deflected wide with a Knight's player free and screaming for the ball. The screaming continued for some time after the ball went wide!

Teen Spirit... Daniel Watkins

In the second half the Knight's brought on Harry Karl for the injured Tom Pondeljak, a move that later was to be prove crucial. Only a minute after Karl's arrival however, Luke Casserly hared down the right hand side, beating his man before whipping his cross in. The ball looked to be heading over John and into the net, but he recovered it time to push it away for a corner.

Just a minute later Spirit should have made it 2-0. A Graham Arnold cross left two players unmarked against the keeper, and while Zane did well to keep the ball down he could only steer it into the path of John.

It didn't appear as if these misses would prove costly, however against the run of play, and much to the disbelief of the crowd, the Knights equalised. Some hesitant defending saw the ball fall to Karl, who finished well past Paul Henderson.

Stunned by this the Spirit staged a rally, and a long-range drive crashed against the bar with John beaten. The introduction of Watkins for Arnold seemed to make little difference, as the Knights created a couple of chances that could have put them 2-1 up.

Watkins then decided to produce his party-piece and leave most of the 13,654 crowd happy. Watkins was understandably delighted with his goal.

"To score the winner felt unbelievable. I heard the crowd and it was just a great feeling. All you can do when you come on as a substitute is work hard and that's what I try and do each week."

Arnold was full of praise for Watkins, saying, "He started last week, he played against Carlton and had a great game."

However Arnold was concerned that his team were unable to put a second goal past the Knights when 1-0 up, and said that although Clayton Zane was disappointed not to score that he got himself in some good positions and the goals would come.

Confidence will be high in the Spirit camp with two wins out of two and a home game against Wollongong to come on Friday night, while in truth it is hard to see the Knights winning too many games. None of their players ever gave up but their inexperienced squad cannot afford the injuries they currently have.

Finally, a word on the crowd. A threatening night at North Sydney in miserable conditions still saw people flocking in with umbrellas and rain-coats. It was a sight to warm the heart on a cold night.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 13, 654
Referee: M Shield

Northern Spirit: Henderson, Bosnar; Casserly; Marusic; Slater; Arnold (Watkins 80), Cranney, Bilokapic, Zane, Cunico, Enes

Melbourne Knights: John, Kutlesovski, Rajher, Kovacevic, Vukadin, Jolic, Sevin, Bazzano (Trpkovic 62), Vojtek, Kiratzoglou, Pondeljak (Karl 55),

Yellows
Knights: Rajher, Kovacevic, Vukadin, Jolic

Votes for Player of the Year:
3: Marusic (Spirit)
2: John (Knights)
1: Zane (Spirit)

FALCONS LONG FLIGHT WAS WORTH IT

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1
Buonavoglia 77
GIPPSLAND FALCONS 2
Thompson 53, Hastie 61
At Breakers Stadium, Newcastle

By John Economos

Gippsland Falcons last Friday night overcame travel fatigue to defeat Newcastle Breakers to collect, for the second consecutive week, three valuable points.

The lads from the La Trobe Valley had been on the road since 5am to make their long trip north.

Two second half goals by Olympic Games striker Archie Thompson and the industrious Willie Hastie ultimately proved fatal for Newcastle, who could only respond with a solitary goal by striker Johnny Buonavoglia.

In contrast, Newcastle were handicapped with a last minute withdrawal of goalkeeper Bob Catlin, who pulled out of the starting line-up just an hour before kick off having been struck down with a stomach virus.

The first session ended in a lustreless display, the only assault on the target in the 20th minute when the Falcons' brilliant Thompson fired from 12 metres but it was well-blocked by Newcastle custodian Swancott.

Eight minutes after the break, the Falcons flew to the lead following a throw-in flicked onto Thompson whose right-footed shot flashed inside the near post.

Five minutes later Newcastle came perilously close when 17 year-old right midfielder Greg Owens smacked a low drive from the edge of the box that went inches wide.

On the hour midfielder Hastie doubled the Victorians' lead with a drive from 30m out that left Swancott stranded on his line.

Newcastle appeared to come to life through the valiant attacking effort of substitute Moroccan midfielder Fouad Umlil and right back Andy Roberts.

In the 71st minute a square ball from the right by Roberts saw striker Johnny Buonavoglia hit his shot from close and Brad Wieczorek's rebound blast was blocked by the Gippsland defence. Two minutes later Newcastle stormed forward again but Wieczorek's final effort was denied a goal by the Victorian defence,greatly marshalled by the Welsh import Jeff Hopkins.

The Novocastrians were finally rewarded for their persistence when the mobile Buonavoglia went deep into Gippsland's box to meet a Glenn Sprod cross.

Buonavoglia headed over the top of the advancing custodian.

With Newcastle's midfield quartet of Owens, Mark Wilson, Umlil and Wieczorek reinforced by the gallant Roberts flying up from the back in support, the Victorians somehow weathered this storm to finally take the three points.

Archie Thompson

Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey later lamented: "We were caught out with stupid mistakes, one from a throw in and the other following a free-kick and we had two possible penalties tonight in the second half.

"We are a young team that will learn from our mistakes and although we battled away this wasn't the result we needed," said Sterrey.

Meanwhile, Gippsland's Stuart Munro evaluated: "It's still very early in the season for us having already had a bye and we are still not getting 90 minutes of quality soccer out of the team. The first half was neither here nor there but we took the game to them in the second. However, we still have young boys who are still learning the trade."

The best performers for Gippsland were twin strikers Archie Thompson and Marco Perinovic with wide man Brian MacNicol and sterling defender Jeff Hopkins.

Newcastle's best were Roberts and midfielder Wilson and Wieczorek. Newcastle must quickly learn to supply far greater quality service to their South Korean import striker Sang-Chul Yoon who was starved of service throughout the match.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 3,496

Referee: B. McKay

Newcastle: Swancott, Roberts, McManus, Sprod, Wilson, Wieczorek, Owens (Ritchie 80, Shannon (Umlil), Buonavoglia, Yoon.

Gippsland: Jevdjevic, Gotis, Hopkins, Osman, MacNicol, Bel, Thompson, Hutchinson, Perinovic, Vargas (Puca 86), Hastie.

Votes for Player of the Year:

3: Roberts (Newcastle)
2: Thompson (Falcons)
1: Perinovic (Falcons).

ERICSSON CUP

WEEK 4
30 OCT-1 NOV
1998

WOLVES LET CITY OFF HOOK

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1
Ceccoli 20
ADELAIDE CITY 1
Mori 31
At Brandon Park, Wollongong

By Rebecca Stanton

Adelaide City held on for grim death against Wollongong Wolves on Sunday evening at Brandon Park, the Wolves were on the prowl for almost 90 minutes but failed on many occasions to put the ball away, letting City of the hook with a 1-1 draw.

Both goals were scored from dead-ball situations in the first half, almost identical at either end, keeping the score even.

Windy conditions didn't seem to affect the Wolves attacking strategy, as they controlled most of the play in the first half.

In the 15th minute Wollongong's, newcomer and former Adelaide City sriker, Michael Brooks, made a strong run up the middle of the park, to swiftly pass the ball to Scott Chipperfield who made a firm strike on target.

Five minutes later Wolves capitalized on a free-kick, when Socceroo Alvin Ceccoli deposited a perfect strike past the keeper's left-side and firmly into the back of the net, taking his team ahead 1-0.

Wollongong had another three good opportunities to put the ball away and extend their lead further, but Adelaide's defence held tight not allowing Wollongong to finish off cleanly.

In the 31st minute it was Adelaide's own Socceroo, Damian Mori who took advantage of a free-kick and cleanly slotted the ball past the keeper, evening up the score to 1-1.

"I think once Adelaide City scored I thought they put quite a few of their players behind the ball and we didn't penetrate their defence as much as what we should have, I think in the end we tried to go through the middle of the park instead of maybe spreading the ball wide," stated Wollongong's Micheal Brooks.

The game soon started to even out, as City began to string some moves together, but the score remained even for half time.

Wollongong came out attacking again in the second half, but it was still anyone's game as both teams had trouble putting the ball away due to bad final passes.

Although Wolves looked hungrier to sneak away with the three points, it was City who nearly stole the show, when Carl Veart took the ball up the right-side of the park, directing a powerful shot at the goal to forcing the Wolves keeper Les Pogliacomi make a desperate save.

Adelaide City appeared happy to leave the ground with one point and this may have been due to the strong marking by Wolves defender Sinozic, who kept close tabs on highly experienced Mori throughout the game.

In the dying minutes of the game last attempts to salvage a home win were made by Michael Brooks, who had two strong shots at goal resulting in deflections from City players, giving Wollongong two corners which they failed to convert.

"We're obviously disappointed, I thought maybe we were probably the better team but unless you stick the ball in the net your not going to win, we were unfortunate not to get the three points at home but like I said I thought we played well enough to maybe get the three points and we can build on that for next week now," commented Brooks.

Wolves now travel to the cauldron of North Sydney Oval to play Northern Spirit this Friday night.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 5,168

Referee: Simon Micallef

Wolves: Pogliacomi, Souris, Ceccoli, Stanton, Sinozic, Horsley, Brooks, Surjan, (Dimoski 75), Salapasidis, Chipperfield, (Masi 75).

City: Petkovic, Armour, Yates, Tobin, Talladira, Mori, Veart, Mennillo, Terminello, Costanza, Kim.

Yellows:
City: Costanzo 21, Kim 25
Wolves: Ceccoli 55

Votes for Player of the Year:
3: Sinozic (Wollongong Wolves)
2: Brooks (Wollongong Wolves)
1: Costanza (Adelaide City)

KOSSIE'S KIDS LEAD THE WAY

BRISBANE STRIKERS 1
Harper 54
CARLTON 0
At Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

By Glenn Davis

Brisbane Strikers shrugged off their "chokers" tag with a convincing 1-0 win over last season's grand finalist Carlton at Suncorp Stadium on Sunday.

The Strikers, who surrendered a two-nil lead before sharing the spoils 2-2 with Perth in their previous Ericsson Cup encounter, showed no signs of wilting against Carlton after Andy Harper broke the deadlock in the 54th minute.

Harper's first goal of the season came with a thundering header off a Sean Cranney cross to the far post.

The Strikers were dubbed chokers after their Perth draw but with skipper Glenn Gwynne back steering the ship after missing the Perth match, the homeside comfortably held a late surge from Carlton in the dying stages.

Socceroo Kasey Wehrman produced another superb effort controlling proceedings with a man of the match performance from the middle of the park but coach John Kosmina believes he may be overdoing things.

"Kasey plays well every week but Kasey sometimes overdoes it," Kosmina said.

"All the good stuff he does, he puts a question mark over his performance because he gets caught far too often in possession for someone of his ability."

Kosmina was reluctant to single out a man of the match, rating the Strikers defence of Gwynne, Steve Laybutt and Chris Zoricich along with keeper Clint Bolton as superb.

"The only people who will beat us this year is ourselves," Kosmina said.

"We competed with everyone comfortably and we're comfortable at the back when we concentrate.

"The only times we let people in sometimes is when we overplay in midfield . We've got to simplify our game a bit.

" But we took a lead and this time we defended it and did it well."

The Strikers dominated proceedings particularly in the first half as Carlton struggled to get out of first gear.

Wehrman, who joins the Socceroos this week for a one-off match against the United States, was dazzling, outclassing his more experienced opponent, former Socceroo Andrew Marth.

The clash between Marth and Wehrman was one of several interesting duels which saw referee David Dwight separate the players on two occasions following some heated clashes.

Harper had two opportunities to put the home-side ahead before the break but was unable to capitalise in front of goal.

The first chance came in the 14th minute after an excellent build-up from hardworking striker Reece Tollenaere, who nutmegged Socceroo Simon Colosimo before slipping a pass to Harper whose snap shot went wide.

In the 25th minute Harper raced into the box off a Wehrman pass but miss-hit his attempt after being knocked off balance.

Carlton signalled just before the break they weren't going to surrender without a fight when Marth took on the Strikers' defence and shot just wide.

Carlton showed some early second half fight when a powerful Marth shot was headed off the line by midfielder Nick Meredith with Bolton stranded.

Bolton, who has come in for some criticism during his time with the Strikers, had a superb game and was one of Kosmina's star performers.

"We battled when we had to battle and were a bit unlucky not to get another one or two," Kosmina said.

"Gwynne and Laybutt were exceptional. Their two front men never got a look in and Andy Harper was a constant threat while Clint Bolton was faultless," he said.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 4,313

Referee: David Dwight (Brisbane)

Brisbane Strikers: Bolton, Gwynne, Zoricich, Laybutt, Harper, Cranney, Tollenaere (Knipe 80m), Wehrman, Hews, Harris (North 59), Meredith.

Carlton: Anastasiadis, Stergiopoulos, Colosimo, Douglas, Marth, Bresciano, Atkinson, Moreira (Markovac 69), Lapsansky, Vlahos, Cervinski (Josifovski 80)

Yellows
Strikers: Gwynne 40, Meredith 45, Laybutt 53, S Cranney 89
Carlton: Vlahos 18, Marth 32, Colosimo 78

Votes for Player of the Year:
3: Wehrman (Brisbane Strikers)
2: Bolton (Brisbane Strikes)
1: Colosimo (Carlton)

ONE-WAY TRAFFIC!

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 5
Tome 1, 30, Cardozo 13, Emerton 81, Carle 88
CANBERRA COSMOS 0
At Belmore Sports Ground, Sydney

By John Economos

Sydney Olympic having the previous week suffered a humiliating 4-1 by Sydney United, bounced back Sunday night when they crushed an uncompetitive Canberra Cosmos 5-0 at Belmore.

Olympic's striker Norman Tome scored a double, his first just 27 seconds after kick-off, a sudden set back from which the visitors from the capital would never recover.

Canberra's defeat could easily have been heavier had it not been for Olympic going to sleep for almost the entire second session after quickly grabbing a 3-0 lead at the break.

Two early crosses from Brett Emerton set up Olympic's first two goals, the second scored by Olympic's Pablo Cardozo who hit the target in the 13th minute from the back post with a delightful header.

Eight minutes from halftime Cardozo again rose elegantly but watched as his header cannoned off the far post.

Jason Culina rocked Canberra's left post in the eighth minute as he smashed a first time 20 metre rocket, and later saw another drive just cleared off the line.

Canberra's marking at the back was woeful whilst their midfield quartet failed to compete against Olympic's quintet of Emerton, Thomas, Poric and Culina.

Whilst Olympic's twin strikers scored three of the five goals, it was the and thrust of central midfielders Poric and Thomas that caused early havoc.

With little resistance facing them, Olympic with monotonous regularity easily sliced through Canberra's lines and only poor finishing or the woodwork more goals.

On the half hour mark Tome flicked over the top of goalkeeper Vilson Knezevic and into the net for his second goal.

Only Canberra's midfielder Norman Kelly could have threatened Olympic in the 64th minute when he found himself totally in the clear, but inexplicably tamely shot at goalkeeper Jimmy Kourtis.

Again threatened in the 67th minute as his free kick from the edge of the box clipped the left angle.

Emerton scored Olympic's fourth goal ten minutes from the bell when Canberra failed again to clear a corner, and teenage substitute striker Nick Carle made it 5-0 two minutes from time with a cracking hit with his cocked left ankle.

Best performers for Olympic were Poric and Thomas plus strikers Cardozo and Tome whilst for Canberra, only their talented striker Peter Buljan looked interested but was totally starved of quality ball service.

A disappointed Canberra coach Rale Rasic lamented: "We were missing five of our senior players but were beaten by the better team as well as our mistakes."

Olympic coach Branko Culina said: "I was happy to play and win against Canberra, but it's ever so easy to criticise when so many things go wrong for you.As far as Olympic is concerned though, we still are far away from our best, at least another month yet."

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 5,493

Referee: J. Blaney

Sydney Olympic: Kourtis: Tsekenis, Ciantar, Taliadoros: Emerton, J.Culina, Poric (Brennan 77), Thomas, Kalantzis: Tome (N.Carle 58), Cardozo.

Canberra Cosmos: Knezevic: (Barlow 46) Marcina, Burt, Clark, Popovich, Zwangobani: Kelly, Zelic, Prenzoski (Langone 46): Buljan, Magnacca.

Votes for Player of the Year:
3: Poric (Sydney Olympic)
2: Thomas (Sydney Olympic)
1: Cardozo (Sydney Olympic)

ERICSSON CUP

WEEK 4
30 OCT - 1 NOV
1998

MARCONI MADNESS!

MARCONI 5
Awaritefe 51, 57, Longo 55, Kim 68 (pen), Maloney 75
SOUTH MELBOURNE 3
Lonzanovski 25, Baser 34, 82
At Marconi Stadium, Sydney

By John Economos

Marconi last Saturday night scored five second half goals against a nine man South Melbourne to send the current League champions crashing to their first defeat of the season, 5-3 at the Marconi Stadium.

The second half was hot tempered with controversy, errors, and fury that saw no less than six goals scored and two South players sent off in the 58th minute (Steve Panopoulos) and 63rd (Goran Lozanovski).

Marconi who had been totally annihilated in the first session by the motivated, efficient League champions, made a bigger comeback than Lazarus in the second half that had the stadium totally stunned.

Having trailed 0-2 from goals by South's Lozanovski (25th) and Tansel Baser (34th), Marconi started their sensational fightback six minutes after the break when their lanky striker Francis Awaritefe chested down a through ball to hit a half volley from the right side into the far left corner to easily nail the best goal of the match.

Ten minutes into the second half Marconi levelled through a controversial corner which stopper Dominic Longo headed into the target. After consulting his linesman (who had immediately raised his flag) referee Wayne Dade overruled him to allow the goal. Two minutes later Marconi surged into the lead at 3-2 when Awaritefe headed in another controversial corner which ignited tempers from the South team.

South's goalkeeper Michael Petkovic had taken the ball in both gloves as Marconi's Mike Smith raced in to head the ball into the net, but the referee had ruled the ball had originally crossed the line.

Tempers again flared and seconds later South's midfielder Steve Panopoulos was sent off for continued dissent on the referee.

The match turned quite hostile for the understandably frustrated South players, which ultimately led to Lozanovski in the 63rd minute also receiving his marching orders for a crude tackle on Marconi's Sean Babic.

South's central marker Steve Iosifidis in the 68th grabbed pacy substitute Joe Bruni and hauled him off his feet inside the box to make way for Marconi's South Korean international Pan-Keun Kim to score from the ensuing penalty and lift Marconi to a 4-2 lead.

Marconi skipper Brad Maloney made it 5-2 when he slammed in a rebound back into the target after Awaritefe had rocked the base of the left post.

South ended the scoring eight minutes from the bell as free-back Tansel Baser scored South's third as he headed in Jason Polak's corner.

Best performers in this action-packed 90 mins were Marconi's Smith, Awaritefe and Longo whilst South's sterling and courageous stars were Baser, midfielder David Clarkson and left wing back Fausto De Amicis.

Angie Postecoglou said later, "I couldn't be prouder of all my players as I had no complaints from any of them despite what they were subjected to. We outplayed Marconi for the entire first session but in the second half they took over especially

Tansel Baser

during that 10 minutes of chaos that was allowed to creep into the game."

Meanwhile in Marconi's dressing room coach Frank Farina, stated: "I can fully understand how Ane must be feeling as if it was me I would be spewing. South's strength is in the middle of the park and I decided to put Smithy in there to add steel. It was a collective effort and we were completely overrun in the first half because of our laziness.

"I had to make some positional and tactical changes in the second session to turn the ship around and we scored two valuable goals after they were two men down," ended Farina.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 3,204

Referee: Wayne Dade

Marconi: Covic Invincible (Phillips 46), Longo, Kim, M Babic, Renaud, Maloney, McDonald (Zoric 84th), Smith, S Babic (Bruni 65), Awaritefe.

South Melbourne: Petkovic, Iosifidis, Baser, Orlic, De Amicis, Lozanovski, Clarkson, Panopoulos, Coveny (Mustafa 89), Curcija (Liporati 71), Tsekinis (Polak 53).

Reds:
Souths: Panopoulos 58, Lozanovski 63

Votes of Player of the Year
3: Smith (Marconi)
2: Baser (Souths)
1: Clarkson (Souths)

GLORY UNBEATEN AND LOOKING GOOD

PERTH GLORY 3
Halpin 4, 49, Markovski 14
SYDNEY UNITED 1
Sterjovski 42
At Perth Oval

By Richard Kreider

It seems Perth Glory coach Bernd Stange is a hard man to please after the former East German national team boss watched his side beat Sydney United 3-1 at Perth Oval last Sunday.

It might have been a result that kept Glory on top of the Ericsson Cup and the only unbeaten side left in the NSL, but Stange said his charges still have many areas to improve.

"For the first twenty minutes or so we played very well and created a lot of combinations and scoring chances, but after one or two bad passes they lost their way.

"People are saying we are a championship team, but I am saying we are not good enough at this moment. We still have a lot to do", Stange said.

Nevertheless, Sydney United coach David Mitchell did not hesitate in praising the Glory, and believes they are good enough to make the play-offs this season.

"Perth are very well organised and well disciplined, compared to past performances at home where Perth have been disappointing," said Mitchell.

Despite only one victory from four outings for the Pumas, Mitchell is not pressing any panic buttons just yet.

"Although the result didn't go our way, I'm delighted with the way we played. being 2-0 down in the first 15 minutes in front the big Perth crowd made life very difficult.

"But to the players' credit, they came back and made a good fight of it", Michell said.'

The visitors could not have wished for a worse start when after four minutes Socceroo midfielder Troy Halpin tore through the Pumas defence and rippled the back of the net with a fierce drive to open the scoring.

Mitchell had the first of a number of scoring opportunities after nine minutes when he snapped a header just over the top.

Five minutes later Richard Plesa came close with free-kick that saw goalkeeper Danny Milosevic completely stranded after it collected a strong deflection and rolled centimetres past an upright.

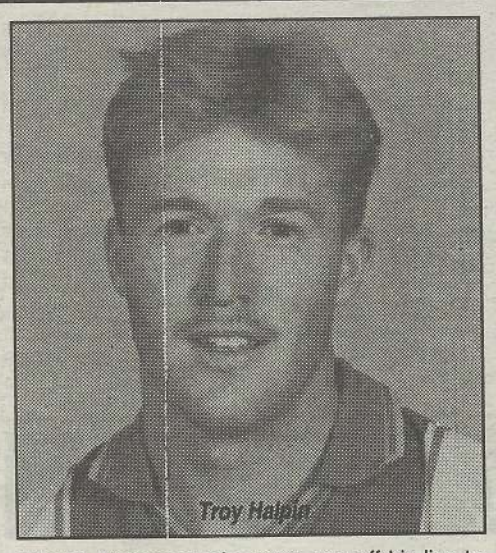
With that let-off, Glory increased their lead in the 14th minute when John Markovski used his strength to shrug off his marker before drilling the ball past Andy Crews.

Glory was given a life after 37 minutes when Paul Strudwick passed straight to Puma's player-coach Mitchell who was denied a decent strike on goal thanks to a perfect interception from Vinko Buljubasic.

A strangely spiritless period of play from Glory enabled Mile Sterjovski to pull a goal back three minutes before the interval when he headed home a Mitchell left-side centre.

Seconds after the re-start Mitchell himself had a golden opportunity to draw his team level when he burst through the flat-footed defence to have a one-on-one with Milosevic, but he could only shoot wide of the mark.

Halpin showed how it's done in the 49th minute with arguably one of the best goals ever seen at Perth Oval after receiving a loose ball via the


Troy Halpin

Pumas' goalkeeper who came way off his line to intercept a goalbound Markovski.

The ball spilled to Halpin just inside his own half and in the centre-circle where he took just one look and one step before directing the ball high and accurately over a number of defender's heads and into the net – much to the obvious delight of most of the 16,738 crowd.

Sydney were by no means willing to capitulate and continued to create their own strikes on goal.

Sterjovski brought the best out of Danny Milosevic in the 56th minute with a superb reflex save, and Sterjovski then crashed the rebound onto the cross-bar.

Substitute Michael Garcia added extra pace in midfield when he entered the field and also came close to increasing his team's lead after 79 minutes with a fierce grasscutter that required a quality save from Crews.

Two equally inspirational saves from Milosevic four minutes from the end would have put the Glory goalie in the right frame of mind just hours before he jetted off to Sydney to join the other Socceroos for the trip to the USA.

Glory will play next week's away fixture against Canberra Cosmos at Perth Oval instead of Bruce Stadium because of renovations. Apart from Milosevic, Glory will also be without Buljubasic who collected his third yellow card of the season.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 16,738

Referee: Eddie Lennie

Perth Glory: Milosevic, Trajkovski, Miller, Buljubasic, Wilkinson, Hay, Naven, Strudwick (Garcia 67), Markovski, (Kalogeracos 82), Despotovski (Boutsianis 80), Halpin.

Sydney United: Crews, Barrett, Bennett, Kupresak Santalab (Berry 80), Plesa, Burns, Ardone, Sterjovski, Townsend (Griffiths 74),Mitchell (Caleta 62).

Votes for Player of the Year
3: Milosevic (Perth Glory)
2: Halpin (Perth Glory)
1: Hay (Perth Glory)

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SPORTSCENE

National Youth League

By Roy Hay

Southern Division

Round Four
Saturday 31 October

VIS (Scott McDonald 2, Angelo Motsiopoulos)	3	Melbourne Knights (Hrvoje Matkovic)	1

Sunday 1 November

Gippsland Falcons	0	South Melbourne (Andrew Mashoian)	1

Bulleen Inter v Albury Wodonga (Match postponed)
Bye v Carlton

League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VIS	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
Bulleen Inter Kings	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
South Melbourne	4	2	0	2	3	4	6
Carlton	2	1	0	1	8	3	3
Melbourne Knights	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
Gippsland Falcons	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Albury Wodonga	2	0	0	2	0	9	0

Leading Goalscorers

Name	Team	Goals
Jovanco Novacevski	Carlton	3

Round Five
Saturday 7 November

Gippsland Falcons v Carlton, (Mobil Park, 4.30 pm)
VIS v Bulleen Inter, (Grange Reserve, 3.30 pm)

Sunday 8 November

South Melbourne v Albury Wodonga, (Bob Jane Stadium, 3.30 pm)
Melbourne Knights v Bye

SOUTHERN DIVISION

There were only two matches in the Southern Division this weekend and the Victorian Institute of Sport had a three-one win over Melbourne Knights in Saturday's match at Grange Reserve.

Hrvoje Matkovic continued his scoring form with the opening goal for the Knights in 22 minutes and it took the VIS till two minutes before the interval to equalise through Scott McDonald. Angelo Motsiopoulos put the VIS in front on 69 minutes and McDonald chipped in with his second with only three minutes left to play.

Gippsland Falcons and South Melbourne played a highly competitve and at times fiery match at Mobil Stadium on Sunday. For the second week in a row Andrew Mashoian scored South Melbourne's winner, this time in the 85th minute.

The game between Bulleen Inter Kings and Albury Wodonga has been rescheduled. Carlton had the bye.

NORTHERN DIVISION

Newcastle Breakers continued the lead the Northern ladder with a three-nil win over Northern Spirit Colts, who were a bit overawed by the big crowd and their first game against a senior youth squad.

All the goals came in the first half and Chad Mansley hit the opener inside the first minute. He grabbed his second on the half-hour and Michael Sloane added a third.

Luke Gray at the back and striker Nathaniel George were the pick of the Colts on the day.

On Sunday night the Queensland Academy of Sport had a highly exciting two-one win over the Australian Institute of Sport at Suncorp. Russell Miner scored after 27 minutes for QAS and both sides were reduced to ten men as the match became quite heated.

Then in the last minute both sides scored with Wayne Srhoj on target for QAS and Michael Ferrante for the AIS.

For Queensland the back three of Andrew Davidson, Shane Stefanuto and Duncan Easton were superb, while fourteen year old keeper Mark Conrad made an auspicious debut. QAS coach Gary Phillips was delighted and relieved with the result.

Sydney United beat its Colts team narrowly by two goals to one at Edensor Park. Robert Angievski scored both goals for the Youth, the second only coming with five minutes left, while Goce Trajkovski got the goal for the Colts.

Northern Spirit also had a very narrow win, this time by the only goal of the game over the New South Wales Institute of Sport which was having its first outing of the season. Matt Langdon's goal in the 54th minute was decisive.

Marconi Fairfield downed Sydney Olympic Academy by two goals to nil at Marconi Stadium. Vic Tomasevic and Mark Haggar scored the goals.

Wollongong Wolves had a two-nil win over Marconi Colts in the first outing for the Brandon Park boys. Noel Spencer and Paul Tuturevski scored for the Wolves.

Northern Division

Round Four
Friday 30 October

Newcastle Breakers (Chad Mansley 2, Michael Sloane)	3	Northern Spirit Colts	0

Saturday 31 October

Northern Spirit (Ma Langdon)	1	NSWIS	0
Sydney United Colts (Goce Trajkovski)	1	Sydney United (Robert Angievski 2)	2
Marconi Fairfield 2 (Vic Tomasevic, Mark Haggar)		Sydney Olympic Academy	0

Sunday 1 November

Sydney Olympic (Carlos Gonzalez, Lee Miott, Hussein Jomaa, Jim Bakis, Leo Carle)	5	ACTAS	0
Wollongong Wolves (Noel Spencer, Paul Tuturevski)	2	Marconi Fairfield Colts	0
QAS (Russell Miner, Wayne Srhoj)	2	AIS (Michael Ferrante)	1

Wollongong Wolves Colts v Bye

League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle Breakers	4	4	0	0	15	4	12
QAS	4	3	1	0	12	4	10
Northern Spirit	4	3	0	1	8	6	9
Marconi Fairfield	4	2	1	1	12	4	7
AIS	3	2	0	1	10	3	6
Northern Spirit Colts	3	1	1	1	8	4	4
Sydney Olympic	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Sydney United	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
Wollongong Wolves	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Marconi Fairfield Colts	3	1	0	2	1	6	3
ACTAS	3	1	0	2	6	15	3
Sydney Olympic Academy	4	0	2	2	2	7	2
Wollongong Wolves Colts	3	0	1	2	1	10	1
NSWIS	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Sydney United Colts	4	0	0	4	2	13	0

Leading Goalscorers

Name	Team	Goals
Morgan Cawley	Queensland Academy of Sport	4
Joe Bruni	Marconi Fairfield	4
Mark Haggar	Marconi Fairfield	4
Chad Mansley	Newcastle Breakers	4

Saturday 7 November

Northern Spirit v Wollongong Wolves, (Cromer Park, 4 pm)
Northern Spirit Colts v Marconi Fairfield, (Christie Park, 4 pm)
Wollongong Wolves Colts v Newcastle Breakers, (Brandon Park No 2, 4 pm)
Sydney United v AIS, (Edensor Park, 5 pm)

Sunday 8 November

Sydney Olympic Academy v Sydney Olympic, (Wentworth Park, 4 pm)
ACTAS v Sydney United Colts, (AIS Soccer Field, 4 pm)
NSWIS v QAS, (To be arranged)
Bye v Marconi Fairfield Colts

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Australian Features

THE FOUR DIEGOS MEET GLORY'S BERND STANGE

Look at these four crazy Amigos!

Welcome Amigos ! We are The Four Diegos. Let's Samba, Let's Rumba, Let's La Bamba, Let's Salza down the Copacobana with sombreros on our head and ball at our feet.

Let's welcome Perth Glory's coach for 1998 / 99 season ... Bernd Stange

Diegos: "Congratulations on Perth Glory,s great start to the season. You came to the club with a reputation as being a strict disciplinarian and one who preaches a philosophy based on hard training. Do you think that this has been the main reason for Glory's improvement this season?"

Stange: "Its too early to speak about success. We've only played four games and this is not enough to declare that we have done a good job. We had 10 weeks of pre-season preparation that was very hard for all the squad. One thing is for certain and that is, at this point in time the Perth Glory team is a very fit combination, but I must say that the team as yet has not gelled as I would have liked. We do need more time in this regard but I sure we will get there."

Diegos: "The philosophy that you have adopted in preparing the team has involved incorporating what is instinctively good about Australian players with your own overseas techniques. Are you pleased with the team's progress in this regard?"

Stange: "At this point in time I find that the performances have been inconsistent. At times we have been good, for example, Adelaide City away and Northern Spirit at home, but Brisbane Strikers away for the majority of the game, we weren't up to the level that I expect. There is still a lot of work to do."

Diegos: "Over the years Aussies have been in great demand overseas for the prowess in music, super-modeling and surfing. In recent times, more and more overseas clubs are looking towards Australia as a recruiting ground for soccer.

What is it that these clubs like about Aussie players, and have any players in the Ericsson Cup caught your eye as yet ?"

Stange: " The Australian mentality based on competitiveness, a good work ethic and a great desire to learn, is very attractive commodity to overseas clubs. This country has a lot really good players. It astounds me that Australia is not a permanent fixture in each World Cup with the amount of talent that is available here. Some players that have caught my eye so far have been Damian Mori from Adelaide City, Kasey Wehrman from the Brisbane Strikers and of course, Robbie Slater from Northern Spirit, who I believe is still good enough to play overseas."

Diegos: "In the aftermath of the game against the Northern Spirit in round two, you were quoted as saying that the best player for you on the day was the 17,850 Glory supporters cheering you and your team on at the ground.

Other than blowing the eardrums of the players on the opposing team, what other advantage do the Perth Glory fans bring to the team on match day?"

Stange: "In the past the record at home hasn't been very good. Last season they apparently only won 4 games from 13 at home. I am attempting to change all this. I want the players to be free from any pressure they may feel from playing at home. But what I will be demanding from the team is to run their heart out for the full 90 minutes for the supporters."

Diegos: "It's well-known that the Glory supporters love the sun, surf, soccer and samba dancing in their spare time.

When you're not at the coal face as a coach, how do you take time out and relax away from soccer?"

Stange: " Its easy for me to live with the pressure. After 22 years with the East German national team and in the Bundesliga in Germany, this is not a problem for me. I'm not here to have a holiday even though my wife and I have visited a number of Australian museums since I have arrived. I don't have many days off because here at Perth Glory we are building for the future."

Diegos: "The Glory fans are hungry for success and you are seen as the man who will lead the club to Glory as it were.

Have you a message for the hopeful Perth Glory fans out there in the stands ?"

Stange: " My message is that I will endeavour to put a side on the park that will give 100% in each game for the supporters."

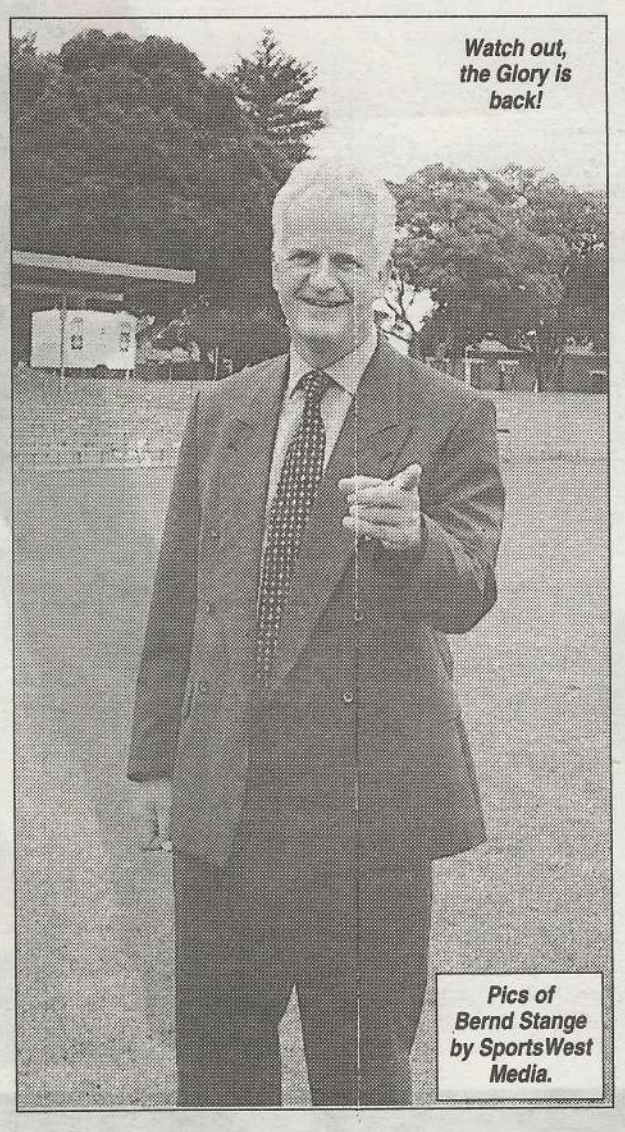
Diegos: "Well Bernd all the best for the season. Adios amigo."

Stange: " Thanks Diegos. Ole amigos !"

'The Four Diegos' are radio celebrities and soccer scribes from Melbourne who have developed a soft spot for soccer playing Sandgropers.

E-Mail 'The Diegos' on FourDiegos@bigpond.com

Until next time .....Adios Amigos !



Watch out, the Glory is back!

Pics of Bernd Stange by SportsWest Media.

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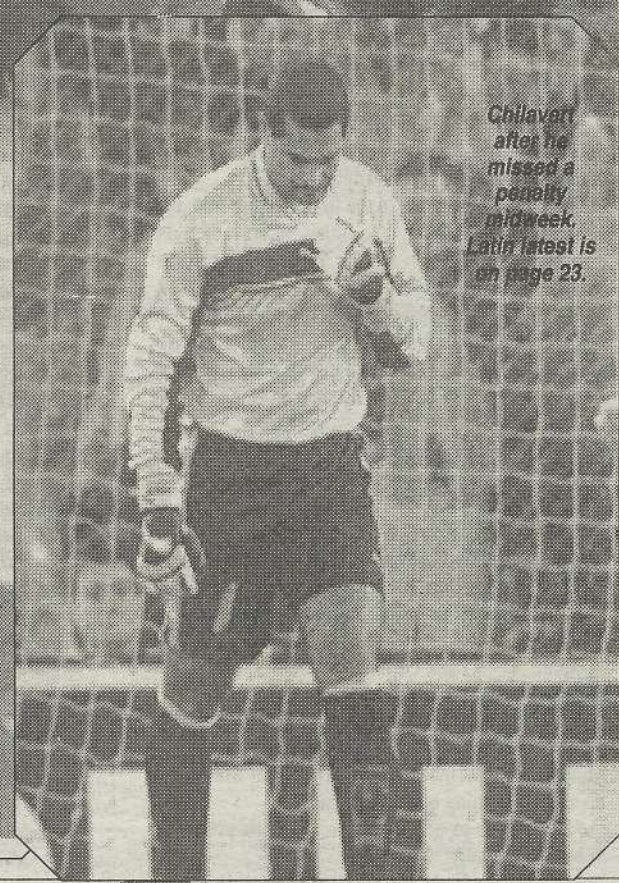
SOCCER WEEKLY'S GLOBAL GAME

Alex Del Piero. Italy news is on page 25.

Boro's Michel Beck and Everton's Celestine Babayako. UK is on pages 29-31.

Gazza at his press-conference telling of his plans to put himself right.



Chilavert after he missed a penalty midweek. Latin latest is on page 23.

UEFA announced this week that for the Euro 2000 tournament, ticketing will be made fairer than the France 98 World Cup. Does this mean that actual fans will be able to go the championships? We don't believe it!

Barca players enjoy a spot of mini car racing during the week. Their coach felt they needed to relax. The players are Hesp, Pellegrino and Luis Figo.

Compiled by ASIA Soccer Weekly

NEWS * NEWS * NEWS

A Chinese domestic soccer match is to be transmitted live on the Internet for the first time, an official of Shanghai Webtv Co Ltd said.

The company has arranged with the Shanghai Shenhua team to broadcast their China F.A Cup home tie against Liaoning Tianrun. The address of the web site for the transmission is webtv.sh.cn the official said.

Result of semi-finals in under-19 Asian Youth football championships: Japan 4 (Masashi Motoyama, 7, Naohiro Takahara, 53, 56, 82), Saudi Arabia 2 (Mohamed Dabo, 34, 39) South Korea 6, Kazakhstan 5 - after penalty shootout.

Score was 2-2 after full time. (South Korea: Nah Hee Geun, 83 and Lee Eun Jig 88. Kazakstan: Dinayev Murat, 57 and Tarassov Yeveniy 63.)

Defending champion South Korea defeated Japan 2-1 to claim the 31st Asian under-19 soccer championship.

South Korea led 1-0 at halftime on a goal from Kim Eun Jing in the 14th minute. Lee Dong Gook scored in the 75th. Ryuji Bando scored for Japan in the 51st minute.

The championship was South Korea's 10th. In the match for third place Saudi Arabia defeated Kazakhstan 3-1 after leading 2-1 at halftime.

Saudi Arabia scorers were Dalal Al Abdulaziz (7th minute), Muhamed A.M. Dabo (28) and Omar Al Ghamdi (67) while the Kazakhstan scorer was Dinayev Murat (43).

Head coach Xu Genbao of top Chinese side Dalian Wanda has left to to join Sichuan Quanxing after failing to secure theleague-cup double, the China Sports Daily reported.

Xu, who took Wanda to the first division title, had earlier hinted he would step down because they did not make the final of the Chinese Football Association Cup.

"This may be the last game I'm with Wanda," he said in early October after the team could only manage an 0-0 draw with defending Cup champion Beijing Guo'an. "I'm sorry for not guiding Wanda into the final."

The club has claimed the first division title for four of the five years since the league's inception.

Julio Salinas and Andoni Goikoetxea are set to quit Japanese football, Spanish newspapers reported on Friday. The two former Spanish internationals have fallen out of favour with Antonio de Cruz, boss of Japanese side Yokohama Marinos, and plan to return to Spain when their current contracts expire at the end of the year.

Salinas, who has scored 34 goals in 50 games over the past two seasons in Yokahama, told sports daily Marca: "In December my contract with Marinos is up and I'm coming back to Bilbao.

"My plan is to quit football...although you never know what's going to happen."

Midfielder Goikoetxea has been left on the sidelines since being sent off against Cerezo in September and is similarly ready to leave club and country.

Goikoetxea, capped 36 times by Spain, and Salinas, who played 56 games for his country, were also teammates at Barcelona during the Johan Cruyff era.

Hidetoshi Nakata's conquest of the Serie A hit a new gear on Saturday when Italy's top sports magazine splashed the Japanese ace across its front cover.

The Gazzetta dello Sport's color magazine dedicated a further eight pages to Perugia's international midfielder, who stunned Italians by scoring twice in his debut against champions Juventus.

"With him on the pitch, Perugia can dream," the Gazetta said, although the 21-year-old himself was more modest. He also ducked the comparison with his only predecessor, Japan star but Genoa flop "Kazu" Miura.

"You want to know if I feel under pressure because Miura failed here? The answer is honestly 'no'," Nakata said. "Because that was him playing, and I'm me. I feel good here, and I've been welcomed by everyone with open arms.

"Obviously, there is the language problem. But thanks partly to my teammates I'm overcoming that and I feel relaxed about my possibilities."

Nakata showed those possibilities in his remarkable debut against Juventus and then revealed he had once worn his opponents' colors.

"Three years ago, my former club, Bellmare, made me do a month's apprenticeship with the Juventus reserves," he said. The Gazzetta published a photo from the time of the teenage Nakata in a Juventus tracksuit.

"It was an interesting and very useful experience, also for learning my first words of Italian," he said. "And only a few years before, it would have been unimaginable.

"I was about eight when I started playing football with my school team. The idea of turning professional only came to me when I was 17, when I had to make a decision to either go to university or become a footballer.

"I think I made the right choice."

As for his style of play, Nakata said: "I try to give everything in every match. The players who impressed me at the start of the season were (Juventus' Edgar) Davids and (Inter's Aron) Winter, who never hold anything back.

"But don't misunderstand me, in modern football, quantity alone is not enough — you still need creativity."

Like his passes, Nakata kept most of his answers short and to the point.

Questioned over the major difference between soccer in Italy and Japan, he thought for a moment and said: "Sliding tackles. They do them better here."

JAPAN BEATS EGYPT

Japan's 1-0 victory over African champions Egypt on Wednesday night was overshadowed by a family tragedy, prompting French coach Philippe Troussier to walk out of an after-match press conference.

In the early hours of Wednesday morning, the 49-year-old mother of Japanese squad member Teruyoshi Ito died of a heart attack — an event which, in Troussier's opinion, made the match meaningless.

"What is a game of football when something like this has happened?" said Japan's new coach. "We dedicate this victory to Teru's family."

Troussier then surprised the press conference at the 2002 World Cup venue of Nagai Stadium by leaving the room, saying he did not want to answer any more questions.

Japan, playing for the first time since losing all three World Cup games in the summer, beat Egypt with a 25th-minute penalty from veteran striker Masashi Nakayama before a crowd of 47,000.

It was his 14th goal in 31 international appearances and followed his strike against Jamaica in a 2-1 World Cup defeat in Lyon — Japan's only goal in France.

Ito, a 24-year-old midfielder who plays for Shimizu S-Pulse in the J.League, was one of 17 players from the World Cup 22 to retain his place in Troussier's first squad.

On learning of his mother's death, he left the team hotel to join his family.

The press conference had begun normally, with Troussier describing the victory as a good result for Japan "because Egypt did not come here on a visit, they came to win."

The penalty was awarded by South Korean referee Kim Young Joo when Nakayama was pushed over in the penalty box by left-back Mohamed Omara.

Troussier, in charge for Japan's first post World Cup game, handed international debuts to 22-year-old Jubilo midfielder Daisuke Oku and Sanfrecce Hiroshima striker Tatsuhiko Kubo, also 22, who replaced Nakayama in the 59th minute.

Japan's Italy-based midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata was denied on two occasions in the second half by Egypt's goalkeeper Nader El Sayed who tipped a free kick over the crossbar and then dived to turn away a stinging left-foot drive.

Nakata was substituted in the 72nd minute to protect him ahead of Perugia's Serie A game away to Empoli on Sunday.

J-LEAGUE

Results of J-League matches played on Saturday:
JEF United Ichihara 0 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0 JEF won penalty shootout 6-5; Urawa Red Diamonds 1 (Okano 74) Gamba Osaka 0; Verdy Kawasaki 1 (Fernando 44-pen) Consadole Sapporo 2 (Valdes 50-pen. 82) Yokohama Flugels 7 (Yoshida 8, 18, 40, Yamaguchi 24, Nagai 30, 70, OG 67) Cerezo

Osaka 0 Bellmare Hiratsuka 0 Kashima Antlers 2 (Mazinho 15, Akita 40) Jubilo Iwata 1 (Nakayama 46-pen) Shimizu S-Pulse 0 Nagoya Grampus Eight 4 (Fukuda 5, Stojkovic 52-pen, Okayama 61, 75) Kashiwa Reysol 2 (Stoitchkov 7, Hagimura 20) Kyoto Purple Sanga 2 (Silas 2, Kurosaki 76) Yokohama Marinos 1 (Jo 8) Vissel Kobe 2 (Kim Do-Hoon 71-pen, 83-pen) Avispa Fukuoka 1 (Kudo 58)

Kashima Antlers	14	12	2	31	5	34
Jubilo Iwata	14	11	3	46	16	33
Shimizu S-Pulse	14	10	4	35	17	27
Urawa Red Diamonds	14	9	5	25	12	27
Yokohama Marinos	14	9	5	31	20	26
Nagoya Grampus Eight	14	9	5	27	20	25
Kashiwa Reysol	14	8	6	21	18	22
Sanfrecce Hiroshima	14	8	6	20	15	21
Kyoto Purple Sanga	14	7	7	22	25	18
Consadole Sapporo	14	6	8	22	25	18
Cerezo Osaka	14	6	8	17	29	18
Yokohama Flugels	14	6	8	29	29	16
Bellmare Hiratsuka	14	6	8	19	26	16
Gamba Osaka	14	5	9	13	22	13
Vissel Kobe	14	5	9	21	4	13
Avispa Fukuoka	14	4	10	8	33	11
Verdy Kawasaki	14	3	11	11	24	9
JEF United Ichihara	14	2	12	15	35	4

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Compiled and written by **CROATIA** Soccer Weekly's John Vrtaric

Vlaovic in action during the World Cup against hosts France.

Viduka: Celtic's richest?

Celtic are set to make Mark Viduka the richest player in the history of the club but only because the Australian striker has a clause in his current contract which will net him half of the £3million transfer fee which the Parkhead club have offered Croatia Zagreb.

Reports indicate that the the 22-year-old forward has an agreement with the Croatian champions that if he is sold before the expiry of his current deal then he is entitled to 50% of the money paid to his club.

That means that Viduka would become an instant millionaire if he agrees personal terms with Celtic as well as the salary of around £500,000 a year he expects to earn playing his football in Glasgow.

The length of time it has taken to agree the price has been due mostly to the fact that Zagreb were determined to get a price for the striker which they valued him at - before the strikers personal cut was taken into account.

Celtic initially faxed an inquiry to Zagreb on the 1st of September but it was only after bids of £2m and then £2.5m were rejected that the offer of a further half million pounds took the money to be pocketed by the club up to their valuation.

Given the frugality which Celtic have displayed in all transfer dealings of the past - as well as Fergus McCann's stated views that players earn too much - it seems highly ironic and more than a little generous that they are willing to splash out twice what a player is valued to cover such a clause in his contract with the selling club.

Pressure to purchase seems to have overcome those obviously uncomfortable facts for Celtic however, as the fee has now been agreed and a work permit has been applied for Viduka - even though his personal terms have yet to be finalised.

With such a hefty lump sum in his pocket just from the transfer, he should not prove too difficult to deal with though the fact that Viduka's earnings will top around £20,000 a week will not be popular in the Parkhead dressing room.

Celtic also seem willing to take a huge gamble on a player who is not a proven goal scorer despite the fact that they have refused to pay such sums to men who had shown their worth in the past such as Jorge Cadete and Pierre van Hooijdonk.

HAJDUK V CROATIA

The first clash of the year between the two giants of the Croatia national league - Hajduk and Croatia - took place in Split on Friday night in the first of the Round 11 games.

Croatia went into the match amidst a turmoil within the club even though they lead the league by four points with a game in hand over the second-placed Hajduk. They have won all but one of their first ten league game but the problem has been that they have had a disastrous run in the European Champions Cup.

This situation has led to the replacement of the coach, Zlatko Kranjcar, by another former Croatia great, Velimir Zajec.

Croatia's results in the Champions Cup have not met the objectives of the club hierarchy and immediately after the heavy loss to Porto, Krancjar's position was terminated.

Further disruption within the ranks of the visitors has been the saga of Mark Viduka's impeding move to Celtic. Although a deal seems to have been struck, with only a work permit and Viduka's personal terms to be finalised, Viduka did take his place in Croatia's starting team for the big derby.

To cover Viduka's eventual departure, Croatia has purchased Adrian Kozniku, but with Viduka's move delayed, the two got to play together as twin strikers with Silvio Maric filling in the hole between them and the midfield.

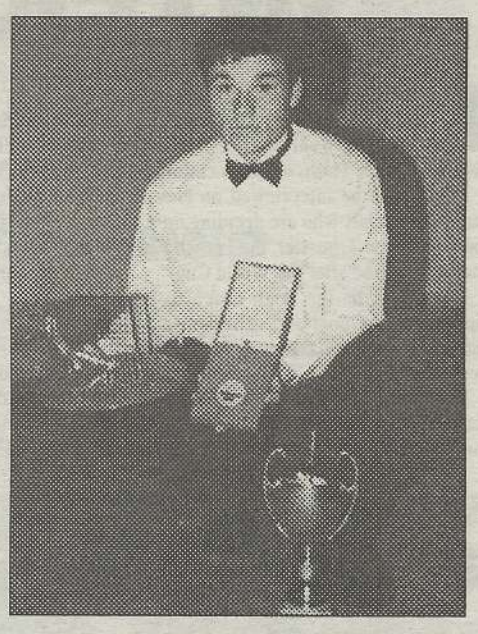
Hajduk coach Ivan Katalinic added spice to the occasion with a verbal assault on both the club and the new coach Zajec. Katalinic questioned the club's purchase of Kozniku by asking how could they possible pay such high salaries for their current stars and then still be able to buy Kozniku.

The assault on Zajec was very pointed. Katalinic was quoted as saying that Zajec may be a good administrator but the job of coaching was not a role for which he was suited. Katalinic cited the latter part of Zajec's coaching career with Panathinaikos as not being very successful.

Meanwhile, Australian international Josip Skoko, who is having a tremendous season for Hajduk, was very confident of a win.

"We have the best midfield in the country, and I think that the midfield will decide the winners of the game.

"With a patient game plan we will feed out forwards and I'm sure that Vucko and Baturina will score from



the chances we create," Skoko declared in the lead up to the match.

The match was a typical local derby - tight and physical. The 1-1 result suited Croatia more Hajduk as they maintain a four point lead over their closest rivals and still have a game in hand.

Viduka scored only his second goal for the season when he opened the scoring in the 9th minute but this was cancelled by Hajduk's midfield general and Under 21 star, Ivan Leko when he scored a superb goal, one of the best of the season, in the 49th minute.

An interested spectator was national coach Miroslav Blazevic who commented, "I thought that Buturina had a good game while Vucko was disappointing and Brajkovic surprised me the most, Leko scored an excellent goal."

He added, "for the visitors I believed that Viduka was their best followed by Simic and Juric - the result was realistic."

Hajduk coach, Katalinic was disappointed with his team. "the game was very tight and I thought they had more chances to score, in the end we were lucky to escape with a point.

"I thought the turning point of the game was in the 16th minute when the referee should have given us a penalty and sent Juric off for handball," he added.

Skoko started the game for Hajduk and had a useful game while Ante Seric was, again, a noticeable absentee.

In other results ... Osijek maintained a challenge with a comprehensive 4-1 away victory over Slaven Belupo. They are on twenty points, four behind Hajduk and six points behind the leaders Croatia. In other results Rijeka remained in fourth spot with a narrow 1-0 win over Mladost.

Line-ups:
Hajduk: Pletikosa, Brajkovic,Sablic, Weiss(Lalic 79), Miladin, Leko(Jerkovic 74), Skoko, Racunica, Mujdza, Baturina, Vucko(Deranja 86)
Croatia: Ladic, Juric, Simic, Tokic, Saric, Rukavina, Mujcin(Jelicic 52), Krznar, Maric(Cvitanovic 86), Kozniku(Jurcic 62), Viduka
Scorers: Hajduk: Leko 49
Croatia: Viduka 9
Crowd: 30,000
Yellow Cards: Hajduk: Weiss 22, Brajkovic 31, Sablic 55 Croatia.Krznar 12, Mujcin 25, Rukavina 60

NEWS IN BRIEF...

According to local press, Mark Viduka's farewell from Croatia may be the start of a procession. It is speculated that Silvio Maric may have played his last derby game against Hajduk. Press reports of a few weeks ago suggested that Maric's father went to England holding discussion with Alex Ferguson on a possible move to Manchester United.

It is suggested that this move will occur sooner rather than later and it could be as early as next week.

As well as Maric, indications are that Croatia's stopper Dario Simic has also attracted the attention of the big clubs in Europe. It seems that both Liverpool and AC Milan have shown a keen interest in the Croatian international and, again, a move is imminent.

Apparently Simic's personal favourite is Liverpool but money talks, and it seems that AC Milan is willing to meet the demands of both the club and Simic.

WEEKEND RESULTS

Hajduk	1	Croatia	1
Slaven Belupo	1	Osijek	4
Varteks	3	Cibalia	0
Rijeka	1	Mladost 127	0
Zagreb	0	Hrvatski Dragovoljac	0
Sibenik	4	Zadarkomerc	2

TABLE

Croatia	10	8	2	0	25:7	26
Hajduk	11	6	4	1	23:10	22
Osijek	11	6	2	3	20:9	20
Rijeka	9	5	1	3	10:8	16
H. Dragovoljac	11	3	6	2	7:5	15
Varteks	11	4	2	5	12:16	14
Zagreb	11	3	4	4	14:19	13
Zadarkomerc	11	3	3	5	16:18	12
Slaven Belupo	11	3	2	6	14:20	11
Cibalia	11	2	4	5	11:16	10
Mladost 127	10	2	2	6	10:19	8
Sibenik	11	2	2	7	12:27	8

Compiled by AFRICA Soccer Weekly

VOGTS DENIES INTEREST

Former Germany coach Berti Vogts will visit Johannesburg this week for talks on taking over as the new coach of South Africa's team, officials claimed.

Vogts is to be interviewed on Nov. 6, by a panel of officials who are deciding on a successor to Philippe Troussier, the Frenchman whose contract expired after the World Cup.

Vogts will be the sixth coach to be interviewed for the post and officials said a final decision would be taken in the first week of December.

The South African Football Association will also talk to Carlos Alberto Parreira, who coached Brazil to World Cup victory in 1994, on November 20.

Vogts' candidacy came as a surprise to the South Africans, who were approached by the German after he resigned his post in September.

"At first, we didn't think it was too serious," said Danny Jordaan, the chief executive officer of the association.

"But then we received a fax to say that Vogts wanted to put his name forward and we have invited him to come and talk to us."

The SAFA panel has already interviewed Englishman Ron Atkinson and the former Dutch international Ruud Krol, as well as three local candidates — Gordon Igesund, Ephraim Mashaba and Trott Moloto, the current caretaker coach.

Atkinson, a former Manchester United, Aston Villa and Sheffield Wednesday manager, has since withdrawn his candidature.

Jordaan and Irivin Khoza, the vice-chairman of the association, travelled to Brazil last week for discussions with Parreira, who has agreed to visit South Africa next month for further talks.

"To have two coaches of the calibre of Parreira and Vogts having an interest in taking over our team is a massive boost for South African soccer," Jordaan said.

Howver, this entire story, which emanated out of South Africa, has beeen denied by Germany's former manager Berti Vogts.

South African Football Association chief executive Danny Jordaan said Tuesday that Vogts had faxed a request to be interviewed for the post left vacant after Philippe Troussier's departure following the World Cup.

But the 51-year-old Vogts told a news agency Wednesday: "There is not the slightest chance of talks with the South African federation.

"I am looking at a lot of interesting offers, but South Africa is not one of them."

With Vogts ruling himself out of contention the South African job looks to rest between Carlos Alberto Parreira, coach of the 1994 Brazil World Cup-winning team, former Dutch star Ruud Krol, and local coaches Gordon Igesund, Ephraim Mashaba and Trott Moloto.

Bafana Bafana fans will have to wait a little while longer to get their hands on their new coach.

FIFA officials are expected in Nigeria on Monday to inspect facilities for next year's world youth cup, a spokesman for the Nigerian tournament organizers said on Sunday.

"The FIFA medical team will begin the inspection on Tuesday," Paul Bassey, press officer for "Nigeria '99," said.

He said the FIFA team would inspect stadiums' clinics, referral hospitals and general cleanliness in the eight Nigerian cities where the games would be played.

In 1995, FIFA cancelled Nigeria's hosting of the tournament at the last minute, citing health and security reasons. Qatar later hosted the event.

This story has been given further credence by a story on the Electronic Telegeraph, which says there are growing fears that the medical facilities in Nigeria are inadequate for the tournament, which is for Under-20s.

Details of venues were due to be announced two weeks ago but as yet there has been no decision.

England and the Republic of Ireland have qualified for the finals. If, as seems inevitable, they are transferred to another country the dates may change, which would prevent a potential club-versus-country controversy.

While England would not call upon Liverpool's Michael Owen or West Ham's Rio Ferdinand, who are both eligible, manager Howard Wilkinson would still have to select some promising Premiership and Nationwide League players.

Jonathan Woodgate, just breaking into the Leeds team, may be one, while Arsenal could lose reserve defender Matthew Upson.

A change of country could signal a change of month, too. If the finals were played in late May or June this would ease the problems of releasing players, which clubs would have to do under FIFA rules.

LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE!

Lightning killed 11 members of a Congolese soccer team and injured dozens more people during a weekend game, the Congolese news agency reported.

The lightning bolt killed all the players on the home team in the village of Bena Tshadi in the province of Eastern Kasai, the Congolese Press Agency said.

The report could not be independently confirmed.

More than 30 people, most on the sidelines, were injured, but none of the injuries is believed life-threatening, the report said.

Investigators blamed the lightning bolt on witchcraft because all the opposing players, from nearby Basangana village, escaped injury, the agency reported.

Sorcery is often used in the region in an attempt to influence soccer games. Witchcraft is often blamed throughout west and central Africa to explain natural phenomenon and illness.

The score was 1-1 when the lightning struck. In South Africa last weekend, six soccer player were hurt when lightning struck the field. (pictured above).

Kenya has appointed former Nigerian national team striker Christian Chukwu as the country's new coach, Kenyan Football Federation (KFF) chairman Peter Kenneth said Wednesday.

Chukwu replaces Kenyan Abdul Majid, who was sacked two weeks ago. The 47-year-old has been given a two-year contract, which will see him handling national team, Harambee Stars, into the millenium.

"We have appointed a man of experience, (a man) who has played in top-flight African football and a man who was captain of the Super Eagles. We feel that he has what it takes to mould Harambee Stars to be a proper African outfit" Kenneth said.

The KFF also named the former Harambee Stars captain, central defender Austin Oduor, as national deputy coach to Chukwu.

Nigeria and Ghana claimed two of the last three places in the Women's World Cup field Tuesday, reaching the final of the African Women's Championship.

Nigeria routed Cameroon 6-0 while Ghana beat the Republic of Congo 4-1 in extra time.

The results leave only one place open for next year's World Cup finals in the United States, scheduled for June 19 to July 10, and that to be decided in a two-leg playoff between Argentina and Mexico.

It will be Nigeria's third straight appearance in the Women's World Cup finals, having lost five of six games and drawn the other in 1991 in China and 1995 in Norway.

Nigeria, which reached the African women's final by outscoring its opponents 26-0, will face off against Ghana on Saturday in Abeokuta, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of the commercial capital of Lagos.

South African international Lucas Radebe has entered negotiations with Leeds United aimed at keeping him at the English Premiership outfit for the rest of his career.

United chairman Peter Ridsdale and Radebe's financial adviser Gary Blumberg have opened talks which could see the Leeds captain sign a three-year extension to his contract.

Radebe has quickly built a reputation as one of the Premiership's top centre-backs and has started to attract the attention of other top-flight clubs, including Tottenham and Liverpool.

The 29-year-old has another 18 months of his current deal to run, with a potentially lucrative Bosman transfer looming at the end of next season.

But both Radebe and Blumberg believe Leeds' offer will be the right one, which is certain to make the Johannesburg-born defender the highest-paid player at the club.

Radebe said: "I am confident everything will be resolved because it's been a great time for me, both this season and last season, and I've settled well in Leeds. Everything is going well. The fans love me, and I love them as well.

"I'm happy David (O'Leary) has been appointed manager. That was important. He knows the players; he has a good relationship with us, and in the few games he has been in charge he has done really well."

Compiled by **LATINO** Soccer Weekly

CUP SCORES

Results of qualifying matches for the South American Libertadores Cup played on Wednesday:

In Merida, Venezuela: **Universidad de Los Andes** (Venezuela) **0 Estudiantes de Merida** (Venezuela) **2**

Scorers: Ruberth Moran 45, Luciano Gonzalez 50

Halftime: 0-1; Attendance: 8,000

In Monterrey, Mexico: Monterrey (Mexico) 1 Necaxa (Mexico) 0

Scorer: Carlos Amaral 79

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Estudiantes de Merida	4	3	1	0	8	2	10
2. Universidad de Los Andes	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
3. Monterrey	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
4. Necaxa	4	0	3	1	2	3	3

Note: top two teams qualify for next year's Libertadores Cup. Estudiantes de Merida have already qualified

COPA MERCONORTE

Deportivo Cali (Colombia) beat **Caracas FC** (Venezuela) **2-0**

Scorer: Walter Escobar 17, 30

Halftime: 2-0; Attendance: 4,000

Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Deportivo Cali (Colombia)	5	3	2	0	7	2	11
2. El Nacional (Ecuador)	5	2	1	2	5	6	7
3. Universitario (Peru)	5	1	2	2	5	5	5
4. Caracas F.C. (Venezuela)	5	1	1	3	3	7	4

Deportivo Cali qualify

Other group standings

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. America (Colombia)	5	1	4	0	9	8	7
2. Millonarios (Colombia)	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
3. Sporting Cristal (Peru)	5	0	4	1	5	6	4
4. Emelec (Ecuador)	4	0	3	1	5	6	3

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Atletico Nacional (Col)	5	2	2	1	10	7	8
2. The Strongest (Bolivia)	5	2	2	1	5	5	8
3. Barcelona (Ecuador)	5	1	2	2	5	6	5
4. Alianza (Peru)	5	1	2	2	4	6	5

Note: winners of each group plus the second-placed team with the best record qualify for the semi-finals.

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AMOROSO IN

Romario's hopes of a Brazil recall were dashed when he was left out of the latest squad while Udinese striker Amoroso, who has never been given a genuine chance, was included.

Brazil's 1994 World Cup hero had been hopeful of a fresh chance in next month's friendly at home to Russia after overcoming the nagging injury problems that kept him out of this year's World Cup in France.

But Romario, who has found his goalscoring touch and is third top-scorer in the Brazilian championship with 14 goals after a recent hat-trick against Vitoria, was again overlooked by coach Vanderley Luxemburgo.

Luxemburgo, who was forced out of Flamengo three years ago when club directors took Romario's side in a row between the two, instead preferred to bring in some fresh faces.

Amoroso, who is joint second top scorer in the Italian championship with six goals, was called up for only the second time.

His previous appearance was as a substitute during a 1-1 draw with Honduras in 1995, a game that became a farce after a torrential downpour left the pitch waterlogged.

Luxemburgo also picked Bayern Munich striker Giovanni Elber, who has only five caps but scored a hat-trick in last month's 5-1 win over Ecuador, Internacional's Christian, who has three appearances all as a substitute, and Cruzeiro's Fabio Junior.

Luxemburgo, who is splitting himself between the national team and Corinthians until the end of the year when he will leave the club side, also included uncapped defenders Flavio of Coritiba and Jean of Santos.

As in his previous two matches in charge, he chose to rest many of Brazil's World Cup players including Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos.

Brazil, who drew 1-1 with Yugoslavia before hammering Ecuador, face the Russians in the North-Eastern city of Fortaleza on November 18.

Corinthians captain Marcelinho, who has been banished from his club team by Luxemburgo for disciplinary reasons, found the punishment extended to the national side when he was excluded.

"At both Corinthians and the national team, we work on four fundamentals: union, discipline, work and professionalism," Luxemburgo said. "If he can understand these rules, he still has a future with the national team."

Marcelinho, who has scored in both games under Luxemburgo, replied: "The national team is different and at the moment I'm thinking of Corinthians. But I know that I have a brilliant future with Brazil."

Squad:

Goalkeepers: Rogerio Ceni (Sao Paulo), Dida (Cruzeiro)

Defenders: Serginho (Sao Paulo), Cafu (AS Roma), Cesar (Portuguesa), Jean (Santos), Odvan and Felipe (Vasco da Gama), Flavio (Coritiba)

Midfielders: Flavio Conceicao (Deportivo Coruna), Marcos Assuncao (Flamengo), Narciso (Santos), Vampeta (Corinthians), Alex and Rogerio (Palmeiras), Rivaldo (Portuguesa), Jackson (Sport Recife)

Forwards: Amoroso (Udinese), Christian (Internacional), Giovanni Elber (Bayern Munich), Fabio Junior (Cruzeiro), Denilson (Real Betis)

Velez Sarsfield goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert missed a penalty as his team lost 4-3 at home to Paraguay's Olimpia, a team hit by internal bickering, in the first leg of its Copa Mercosur quarter-final.

Paraguay's World Cup captain fired his second minute effort against the crossbar and then conceded four goals during Tuesday night's game.

Olimpia's players had threatened not to board their plane in Asuncion in a row over their bonuses for the match before backing down and agreeing to discuss the matter when they returned home.

Velez fought back from 3-1 down in the second half to level the game only to see Carlos Paredes grab a last minute winner.

The game capped an eventful month for Chilavert during which his team have failed to win a game.

Four weeks ago he scored two goals and was then sent off in an Argentine championship match.

Last week he gifted a goal to Boca Juniors player Martin Palermo who he had likened to a rat deserting a sinking ship in the run-up to the match.

In between, he played in an exhibition match in Japan and served a two-match suspension at home.

Santos midfielder Narciso, recalled by Brazil on Wednesday, promptly missed two penalties in a club match.

Narciso, in the squad for next month's home friendly against Russia, twice failed to give his team an important Brazil championship win after they had fought back from 2-0 behind at America-Natal.

His first effort was saved and the second hit both posts before the ball rolled away to safety.

Narciso has won three caps, all in 1995. The game ended 2-2.

Defending champions Bolivar were knocked ou of the Bolivian championship after players went on strike for the fourth time this year and missed a crucial match.

The club was forced to field its youth team for Wednesday's game away to Independiente Petrolero, which it had to win to have any chance of staying in the tournament, and were hammered 4-0.

The players, whose previous stoppages had been over failure to pay wages on time, were this time demanding payment of their annual bonuses before the match and had been refusing to train since last week.

Team captain and former international Vladimir Soria, apparently fed up with the problems, announced his retirement.

La Paz was left without any teams in the tournament after The Strongest lost 3-1 at home to newly promoted Real Potosi, which boasts one of the world's highest tadiums.

Real Potosi, Real Santa Cruz, San Jose, Blooming, Independiente and Wilstermann qualified for the final phase of the Clausura, the second stage of the championship.

The winners will meet Wilstermann, champions of the first stage (Apertura) held in the first half of the year, to decide the title. Wilstermann takes the title automatically if it wins the Clausura as well.

Inter Milan's Brazilian midfielder Ze Elias will be sidelined for a month and Uruguayan teammate Alvaro Recoba absent for two weeks after receiving injuries in the Italian Cup.

The injuries were a further blow for coach Gigi Simoni, whose side have lost its last two league matches to Lazio and Juventus and had its bus pelted with eggs by angry fans before the lacklustre 1-0 cup win over third division Castel di Sangro.

Ze Elias twisted his right knee. "We'll see how things are in 25 days, if not a month," an Inter team doctor said.

Recoba wrenched his left ankle midway through the first half.

Ironically, Recoba's replacement Nicola Ventola scored Inter's 26th minute goal which at least gave the UEFA Cup holders a first leg lead to take to Castel di Sangro's modest ground, perched high in the mountains east of Rome.

Simoni acknowledged his team was under-performing but took the egg attack in his stride. "At least they weren't throwing stones," he said.

Ze Elias ... out till December .

Compiled by **GREECE** Soccer Weekly's A.D. Akratos

PAO go Top of the Pops

After a two-week interruption due to municipal elections, the Greek soccer championship resumed last weekend with Panathinaikos overtaking AEK Athens at the top after crushing Kavalla at home 6-2.

AEK played a desperately disappointing 1-1 draw against Proodeftiki away but in light of the managerial ambiguity surrounding coach Stepanovic perhaps the result was better than it looked on paper.

Panathinaikos now have 18 points from seven games, AEK Athens are second on 17 points and Olympiakos Piraeus, which beat Ethnikos Asteras 3-1 away, lie in third place with 16 points.

Panathinaikos virtually wrapped up the match against Kavalla after only thirty minutes of play through goals from Nikos Lyberopoulos in the 18th minute and Alana Asanovic in the 27th.

Lyberopoulos made it 3-0 in the 47th minute while Milojevic got the Greens' fourth goal in the 55th with a penalty. Kavalla pulled backed two goals in the space of three minutes against the run of play with Kavakas finding the net in the 74th and Nasiopoulos in the 77th .

However, Kavalla's show of flair was shortlived with Milojevic making it 5-2 with another penalty in the 80th and Brazilian striker finished Kavalla off in the 85th with a well taken effort.

AEK took an early lead with a goal by their star striker Demis Nikolaidis off a corner kick taken by Tony Sawevski in the 2nd minute and wo minutes later, the visitors came close to a second goal when Sawevski's shot hit goalie Vangelis Karassavas' crossbar. A similar opportunity was lost by Ethnikos Asteras when Ukrainian star Oleg Protassov's shot struck AEK's crossbar in the 22nd.

The hosts levelled with an own goal by Vassilis Zikos in the 24th and Proodeftiki were reduced to 10 men in the 58th when Vangelis Dangas was sent off for a second bookable offence. Dspite the one-man advantage, AEK's players could not score and although Christos Maladenis netted in the 70th, the goal was disallowed for offside.

Proodeftiki went deeper into the red when they were reduced to nine players in the last eight minutes when Michalis Politis saw his second yellow card of the game, as did AEK's Sawevski in the 86th.

Stelios Giannacopoulos scored two goals and gained a penalty as Olympiakos beat Ethnikos Asteras 3-1. Playing at Kessariani stadium, newcomer Ethnikos Asteras' home ground, Olympiakos went on the attack from the opening minute but it was Ethnikos Asteras which took the lead with a header by Vassilis Xanthis off a center from Gradimir Jorvanovic in the 11th.

Giannacopoulos levelled in the 26th and Grigoris Georgatos made it 2-1 with a penalty kick in the 38th for the visitors when a penalty was awarded when Filippos Frontzos was agjudged to have brought down Giannacopoulos in the area.

Giannacopoulos closed the scoring with a header off a corner kick by Andreas Niniadis in the 58th to send the impressive looking Reds into third place and looking the goods for another title.

The complete weekend results were:

Iraklis	2	Ionikos	1
OFI	3	Panelefsiniakos	0
Paniliakos	3	Apollon Athens	1
Ethnikos	1	Aris	1
Xanthi	0	PAOK	1
Panionios	0	Veria	0
Panthinaikos	6	Kavala	2

GREEK DIVISION 1 STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	7	6	0	1	17	8	18
AEK Athens	7	5	2	0	13	4	17
Olympiakos	7	5	1	1	21	6	16
Ionikos Piraeus	7	4	1	2	17	10	13
Xanthi	7	4	1	2	9	7	13
Paniliakos	7	4	0	3	11	9	12
Iraklis	7	3	2	2	10	6	11
Aris	7	3	2	2	11	8	11
Panionios	7	3	1	3	17	12	10
PAOK	7	3	2	2	8	8	11
OFI Iraklion	7	3	0	4	10	10	9
Kavala	7	2	1	4	13	21	7
Panelefsiniakos	7	1	4	2	4	8	7
Ethnikos Astir	7	2	1	4	7	13	7
Proodeftiki	7	1	2	4	7	13	5
Apollon Athens	7	1	2	4	9	17	5
Etnikos Piraeus	7	0	2	5	2	15	2
Veria	7	0	2	5	1	12	2

GREEK PLAYERS ABROAD

Name	Club	Country
Hrisovalantis Anagnostou	Gladbach	Germany
John Anastasiadis	South Melbourne	Australia
Vasilis Borbokis	Sheffield United	England
George Bouhoutsos	Sydney Olympic	Australia
Con Boutsianis	Perth Glory	Australia
Nikos Dabizas	Newcastle	England
Traianos Dellas	Sheffield United	England
Giotis Efthimiadis	Lustenau	Austria
G.X. Georgiadis	Newcastle	England
Takis Gonias	Sporting Gijon	Spain
Dimitris Grammozis	Hamburg	Germany
Kostas Haniotakis	Vitesse Arnhem	Holland
Lambros Houtos	Roma	Italy
Lou Hristodoulou	Adelaide Sharks	Australia
Chris Kalantzis	Sydney Olympic	Australia
Nikos Kizeridis	Portsmouth	England
Frank Klopas	Chicago Fire	U.S.A.
Hristos Kostis	Anderlecht	Belgium
Vangelis Krios	Zeouta	Spain
Nikos Machlas	Vitesse Arnhem	Holland
Spiros Maragos	Omonoia	Cyprus
Marinos Ouzounidis	Havre	France
Thomas Stratos	Arminia Bilefeld	Germany
Vasilis Tsartas	Seville	Spain
Yiannis Varvoutis	Loebem	Polland
Mihalis Vlachos	Portsmouth	England
Theodoros Zagorakis	Leicester	England

PAO's golden boys: Asanovic & Lyberopoulos

CYPRIAN FIRST DIVISION

Results of Cyprian first division soccer matches played last weekend:

Enosis Paralimni	2	Anorthosis Famagusta	5
Apollon Limassol	1	Omonia Nicosia	5
APOEL Nicosia	4	Alki Larnaca	1
Olympiakos N.	0	AEL Limassol	1
AEK Larnaca	2	Evaghoras Paphos	0
Aris Limassol	1	Ethnikos Achna	3
N. S. Famagusta	2	Doxa Katokopias	0

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anorthosis F.	6	5	1	0	23	5	16
Omonia Nicosia	6	5	1	0	22	7	16
APOEL Nicosia	6	4	1	1	16	6	13
AEL Limassol	6	4	1	1	10	4	13
Ethnikos Achna	6	3	2	1	17	9	11
Alki Larnaca	6	3	1	2	13	16	10
Enosis Paralimni	6	2	3	1	9	9	9
AEK Larnaca	6	2	1	3	11	13	7
Olympiakos Nicosia	6	2	0	4	7	8	6
N. S. Famagusta	6	2	0	4	10	12	6
Evaghoras Paphos	6	1	1	4	5	21	4
Apollon Limassol	6	1	0	5	9	19	3
Aris Limassol	6	1	0	5	7	19	3
Doxa Katokopias	6	0	2	4	1	12	2

Club Profile:

PANATHINAIKOS 1998-1999

GENERAL INFORMATION

Stadium: Olympic Stadium, Seats: 75,000 Phone: 68.34.060
Team Colors: Green-White
President: Giorgos Vardinogiannis
Coach: Vasilis Daniil
Assistant Coach: Vaggelis Vlahos
Captains: Christof Vazeha
Office Address: Athletic Institute of Paiania
Phone: 66.47.160
Worth: 1.1 Billion Drachmas (~ AUS$65 million)
Press: Spiros Mitsis
Trainer: Spiros Kourmousis
Physical Therapist: Vasilis Oikonomidis

STATISTICS

First Division: Panathinaikos has had 39 appearances and has played 1266 games for 190 losses, 292 draws, 784 wins with 2527 goals for, and 992 goals against.

Top Scorer: Last year was the year of Kristof Warziecha. The Polish national scored his 201st goal and was crowned as the leading scorer of all time for Panathinaikos. Second in the scoring honours list is Antonis Antoniadis with 181 goals.

First Team Appearances: The record of Mimis Domazos is not in any immediate danger in this category. The legendary number "10" for the team has 502 first team appearances to his credit which is a very,very hard record to beat.

Player Statistics: Lyberopoulos has 100 appearances and with 11 more appearances Lagonikakis will reach 200. If Warziecha scores this season more than 24 goals he is going to surpass Giorgos Sideris as the all-time third scorer in the A' Division.

PLAYER TRADING

In: Vocolos, Asanovic, Karagounis, Kiassos, Halkias, and Da Silva
Out: G.X. Georgiadis, Tz. Iritzemof
Renewed Contract: N/A

HONOURS:

Championships:	15
Doubles:	6
Cups:	15 (Finalist 22 times)

After one year of absence from the European tournaments Panathinaikos is back with a vengeance and is looking promising for European titles in the near future! Panathinaikos made the buy of the off season and acquired Aliosa Asanovic who played for Croatia in the 1998 World Cup. On the other hand though it lost G.X. Georgiadis to Newcastle. Vasilis Daniil is trying to get his player thinking only of winning but it looks that Asanovic has made that a reality with the team going top of the league standings this week.

PLAYER SQUAD

Name	Birthdate	Previous Club
GOALKEEPERS		
1 VANTSIK Giosef	8-13-1963	Gornik
20 NIKOPOLIDIS Antonis	1-4-1971	Anag. Artas
23 HALKIAS Kostas	5-30-1974	Apollon
DEFENDERS		
2 APOSTOLAKIS Stratos	5-11-1964	Olympiakos
17 GEORGIADIS Giorgos	1-30-1971	Doxa Dramas
6 KOLITSIDAKIS Thanasis	11-21-1966	Apollon
5 MILOGEVIC Vlantan	3-9-1970	Apollon
3 NIKOLAIDIS Theo	7-21-1973	Kavalla
8 GOUMAS Yiannis	5-24-1975	N/A
14 VOKOLOS Leonidas	6-20-1970	Panionios
22 KIASSOS Kostas	12-13-1975	Ofi
4 ALEXOPOULOS Giorgos	2-7-1977	N/A
15 BASINAS Aggelos	1-4-1976	N/A
MIDFIELDERS		
18 KONSTANTINIDIS K.	8-31-1972	Ofi
12 MIKLAND Eric	7-21-1971	Leeds
7 ASANOVIC Aliosa	12-11-1965	Napoli
26 KARAGOUNIS Giorgos	3-6-1977	Apollon
21 LYBEROPOULOS Nikos	8-4-1975	Kalamata
19 KOLA Blentar	8-1-1972	Apollon
ATTACKERS		
16 STRADLI Frank	5-16-1972	Lillestrem
10 ALEXOUDIS Alexis	6-20-1972	Ofi
9 WARZIECHA Kristof	11-17-1964	Ruh Horzof
21 LAGONIKAKIS Andreas	6-4-1972	Panionios
13 SIBNIEFSKI Igor	11-10-1974	Kavala
24 DA SILVA Mauro	8-10-1978	Sport Demold

AVERAGE AGE: 26.4

Compiled by Soccer Weekly's Joe Russo

ITALY

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SEVEN DAYS IN ITALIA

AC and Inter Milan handed the city council a shocking ultimatum 'give us control of San Siro or we're leaving.'

Like all Italian football grounds, the famous stadium is owned by the local authorities and rented out to the clubs on match days.

The authorities also take a cut on the ticket sales and the advertising.

But AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani said after a shareholders meeting: "Our contract for San Siro is the worst deal in the whole of Europe.

"Either the council give us control of it for 50 or 60 years starting in July 2000, so we can carry out work on it and develop a new business strategy, or we will be forced to build a stadium of our own. Us and Inter.

"The president of Inter Milan, Massimo Moratti, agrees with us on this," he told the Gazzetta dello Sport .

Italian clubs are jealous of the commercial success of English Premiership sides such as Manchester United, who own their grounds and who have developed them in recent years by adding lucrative restaurants and conference centres.

Serie A clubs are also keen to earn more from television rights.

AC Milan have become the first Italian club to admit publicly that they have agreed to sell their rights independently of the League.

Galliani revealed: "We have drawn up a contract to sell all the rights to home matches over the league season, in pay TV and pay-per-view for Italy and abroad, with the Canal Plus group.

"The contract will start on July 1, 1999 and run until June 30, 2005."

His announcement is bound to cause a major rumpus when the League clubs have an assembly meeting. Rights have always been sold jointly, enabling the profits to be shared among the poorer as well as the richer clubs.

The changes are designed to improve the finance at AC Milan, which announced losses of 25 billion lira ($15 million) on turnover of 130 billion lira ($78 million) for 1997, as it prepares for a Stock Exchange listing.

The club, currently part of Silvio Berlusconi's Finninvest media empire, is already beginning to stand on its own two feet, Galliani said, adding that the listing is not scheduled before 2001.

Juventus' Italian Cup campaign has run into trouble after it drew 1-1 with Venezia at an empty Delle Alpi stadium here.

There was room for over 70,000 but only 561 people turned up for the third round first leg tie on Tuesday night, a record low turnout for the club.

The good news was the return from injury of both defender Ciro Ferrara (right) after nine months and striker Nicola Amoruso, who headed Juventus into the lead from Daniel Fonseca's corner, after 11 months.

But the bad news in a competition where the away goals rule applies, was the dubious late penalty converted former Juventus defender Gianluca Luppi.

'What really counted this evening was to see Ferrara and Amoruso back on the pitch after such a long time,' said coach Marcello Lippi. 'And they did well.'

Ferrara, whose broken leg cost him a place at the World Cup, said: 'I'm delighted. Now I can really say that I am cured.

Obviously I've got to work on my fitness but the legs were fine.'

The away tie will be in Venice on November 11.

As Roma midfielder Daniele Conti, the son of Italy's 1982 World Cup hero Bruno, was banned for three matches for spitting in the face of AC Milan striker Oliver Bierhoff.

Conti had denied the charge immediately after Sunday's match, but the Italian football authorities took their decision from the referee's report.

The length of the ban was due to his "particularly insulting behaviour towards an opponent and because of the part of the body where the spit landed," the disciplinary report said.

AC Milan were fined 70 million lira ($43,000) and given a formal warning after missile throwing by their fans during the same game at San Siro.

A linesman, who had earlier waved a 'goal' for Bierhoff off-side, needed medical attention after being struck by one of the missiles.

And Zinedine Zidane was suspended for one match and Dutch teammate Edgar Davids for two after the Juventus pair were both sent off in Sunday night's 1-0 win over Inter Milan.

Zidane was guilty of a lunging feet-first tackle while Davids was ordered off for sarcastically applauding the referee after being booked.

Walter Zenga, former Italian national team star and 1997 Revolution MVP goalkeeper, will return for the 1999 season as head coach and goalkeeper.

Zenga became New England's interim coach on Aug. 24, and guided the team to a 3-3 record in its final six matches. The Revolution posted shut-outs in four of its last five matches.

In 1997, Zenga led New England to its first-ever Major League Soccer playoff berth as a player. The team was 15-7 with Zenga in goal and 0-10 without him.

"Walter made an immediate impact on our team as our coach this year and was our most valuable player on the field in 1997,"

Revolution General Manager Brian O'Donovan said. "By combining both of these talents, we can maximize his potential in building a championship-caliber team for next year and beyond."

Italian clubs want to avoid a showdown over television rights that could end with the big clubs creaming off most of the money, the chairman of Italy's Football League said.

But Franco Carraro said nothing had been finalised at a meeting of Italy's 38 Serie A and Serie B sides called to discuss a growing row that may end up with the biggest sides doing their own TV deals at the expense of poorer ones.

"We haven't decided anything but the feeling was they all realise it's preferable to stay together rather than split up because the advantages of staying together are far bigger than the satisfaction of individual egos in being apart," he said.

Under the current system, the League sells TV rights for all 38 clubs collectively but digital broadcaster Telepiu, owned by France's Canal Plus (CNLP.PA), sparked a split with news this summer of a breakaway deal with some of the top names in Italian soccer.

A League spokeswoman acknowledged that could lead to "a division between Serie A and Serie B, like in England."

A Telepiu spokesman said the company had now signed deals with league champions Juventus, Inter Milan, AC Milan, Napoli, Empoli, Bologna and Cagliari for the digital rights to air home matches from 1999 to 2005. He declined to discuss figures or to say if any money had been handed over

Rival Stream, a unit of Telecom Italia, has been slower to get its plans together as talks on shareholder structure drag on. The phone firm wants to build Stream into a major digital player with media magnate Rupert Murdoch's News International, a unit of News Corp (NCP.AX), France's TF1 (BOUY.PA) and maybe Italian state broadcaster RAI.

But, with soccer seen as just about the only thing likely to motivate large numbers of Italians to pay to watch digital TV, Stream has sought to make up for lost time by trying to grab other Serie A stars including AS Roma and Lazio.

But Roma chairman Franco Sensi told reporters on Thursday: "Roma has no deal with Stream."

He said the clubs had decided to "delay a decision to give us time to think." No deadline was set.

Even though the current contract governing television rights runs until June 30, time is of the essence. Media analysts say soccer will make or break the success of digital and they are not even sure there will be enough room for two rival companies.

Industry sources said News International, with Telecom Italia, had offered $500 million a year for digital rights to all clubs.

Serie A Round Seven

Empoli	2	Perugia	2
Inter	2	Bari	3
Juventus	2	Sampdoria	0
Parma	2	Fiorentina	0
Piacenza	1	Milan	1
Roma	4	Udinese	0
Salernitana	1	Lazio	0
Venezia	0	Bologna	2
Vicenza	2	Cagliari	1

Round Eight

BARI V PARMA
BOLOGNA V ROMA
CAGLIARI V PIACENZA
FIORENTINA V VENEZIA
LAZIO V EMPOLI
MILAN V INTER
PERUGIA V VICENZA
SAMPDORIA V SALERNIT.
UDINESE V JUVENTUS

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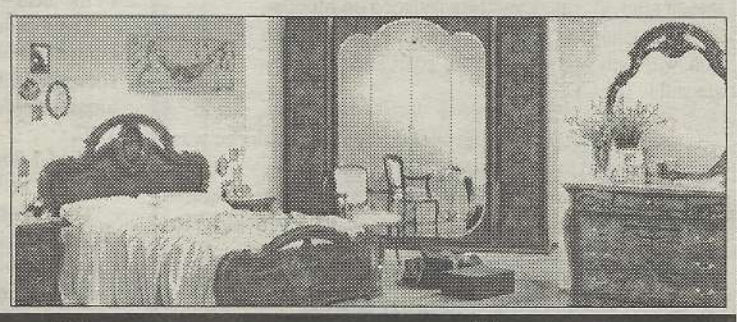

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YAGOONA 572-578 Hume Hwy 9796 7094

Compiled by EUROPE Soccer Weekly

Blah..Blah..

Spanish international defender Josep 'Pep' Guardiola could return to first team action by the end of this month, Barcelona's medical staff.

Guardiola, 27, has not played since January after a series of injuries. He injured his left hamstring in August 1997 and broke down a further five times last season.

The former Barcelona captain had a make-or-break operation to save his career in Finland in June by a surgeon who specialises in ice hockey injuries. He has recovered well.

Club doctor Josep Borrell said Guardiola will be training with the team within 15 days and could return for the match against Atletico Madrid on November 28.

Guardiola has been capped 31 times by Spain and looked a certainty for France '98 before the extent of his injury problems became apparent.

MetroStars defender Alexi Lalas' second career will get its big break when he opens for the rock group Hootie and the Blowfish during their upcoming European tour.

Lalas will play eight shows in a 10-day span, starting in Amsterdam, Holland on Nov. 6th. The tour will continue through Germany and conclude in Dublin, Ireland on November 15.

Lalas will be joined by his brother Greg (bass), Lex Lianos (drums) and Chris Cicchino (guitar). Lalas debuted his newest CD, "Ginger," on Sept. 15th in New York at the Official All-Star Cafe in Times Square. He performed his first single from "Ginger," "Goodnight Moon."

Considered the most recognizable U.S. soccer player in international circles, Lalas has previously released three other CDs in the past four years, including "Woodland," which he named after the street in front of his childhood home in Michigan.

The upcoming tour for Alexi with Hootie and the Blowfish will be his first.

GERMAN CUP MATCHES PLAYED MIDWEEK

3rd Round

VfL Bochum 0 Borussia Monchengladbach 1 (Polster 10)
Rot-Weiss Oberhausen 3 (Weber 9, 52, Propper 42) **Hamburg SV 3** (Dembinski 7, 66, Groth 79) after extra-time (Rot-Weiss Oberhausen won 4-3 on penalties)
VfB Stuttgart 3 (Akpoborie 71, Rost 84, 86) Borussia **Dortmund 1** (Hassler 90-pen)
VfL Wolfsburg 3 (Praeger 8, Boy 50-og, Akonnor 85) **Arminia Bielefeld 1** (Reina 28)
MSV Duisburg 2 (Markus Beierle 37, 50) **Bayern Munich 4** (Elber 56, 60, Jeremies 76, Lizarazu 89)
Tennis Borussia Berlin 4 (Aracic 30, 58, Copado 40, Kovacevik 56) **Hertha Berlin 2** (Thom 11, Tchami 69)
Werder Bremen 3 (Frings 17, 66, Maximov 50) **Fortuna Duesseldorf 2** (Dobrovolski 30, Pizarro 85)
Sportfreund Siegen v Uerdingen 05 Postponed

Former Spanish national coach Javier Clemente will take over at struggling first division Real Betis, club president Manuel Ruiz de Lopera said on Tuesday.

Clemente resigned last month after six years in charge of Spain after a disappointing World Cup. Spain failed to qualify for the second round and then lost a Euro 2000 qualifying match 3-2 to Cyprus.

He becomes Real Betis' fourth coach since the end of last season after Vicente Cantatore resigned on Monday.

The Seville club lie at the bottom of the Spanish first division, with only one win and four goals after seven matches, but are still in the UEFA Cup.

Unsettled German goalkeeper Stefan Klos said he was determined to quit Borussia Dortmund.

'I will not stay under any circumstances,' he said before Tuesday's domestic cup match between Borussia and Vfb Stuttgart.

The 28-year-old, who wanted to quit the Bundesliga club last year, believes he deserves a better salary after helping his side to the European Champions League title in 1997.

German press reports said Spanish side Real Madrid and English club Liverpool could be in the running to sign Klos.

In Italy, meanwhile, it was reported that another German keeper, Jens Lehmann, could leave AC Milan to plug the gap at Borussia.

EURO 2000 TIX

Organisers of the 2000 European championship finals have promised to provide more tickets for "genuine" fans compared with previous major tournaments.

Tickets will not be sold as part of travel or accommodation packages.

"We want a fair, open and transparent system...There will be more tickets for supporters of the two opponents. In France (for the World Cup) they each received eight percent. We will double that," Euro 2000 secretary Harry Been told a news conference.

A further 37 percent of the 1.2 million tickets will be offered directly to the public from March or April next year.

Euro 2000 organisers are keen to stress they do not want to criticise but instead draw conclusions from the experience of this year's World Cup in France.

A ticketing policy which favoured French nationals and led to a vigorous black market in ticket sales, came under fierce criticism from the media and the European Commission.

Part of the French problem came from the desire to guarantee full stadiums, said Euro 2000 director Alain Cortais.

Euro 2000 organisers want capacity crowds but say they have opted for a ticketing policy offering "reasonable" prices.

"You will pay for what you get- the ticket," said Been, adding organisers would insist national federations adhere to the conditions.

In accordance with European Union rules, Euro 2000 has pledged to give all EU citizens an equal chance to buy tickets and will not give preferential treatment to the Dutch or Belgians, the tournament' co-hosts.

Supporters will be allowed up to two tickets per match and, for security purposes, they will bear the buyers' names.

Euro 2000 hopes to receive formal UEFA approval of its ticketing plans in November.

Sales of the initial 37 percent will start in spring 1999 with forms available from a retail channel, over the telephone or via the Internet.

National associations are expected to begin sales from December next year.

The final of the European Championship in 2000 .

"De Kuip," as the stadium is known, will host the final on July 2, 2000, the last of the 31 matches of Euro 2000 which Belgium and the Netherlands are co-hosting.

Jeu Sprengers, Dutch FA chairman and joint president of the Euro 2000 board, made the announcement at Euro 2000's first major news conference, saying De Kuip got the nod over the Amsterdam Arena for financial reasons.

Amsterdam will stage one of the semi-finals, along with Brussels' King Boudewijn Stadium.

Former French international Philippe Anziani was confirmed as the new coach of struggling Sochaux on Wednesday.

Anziani, 37, had taken over on a provisional basis earlier this week after Bosnian-born Faruk Hadzibedjic was sacked.

Sochaux are bottom of the French first division with five points from 10 matches.

Former Belgium and Bayern Munich goalkeeper Jean-Marie Pfaff was named the new coach of Ostend on Wednesday after the Belgian first division strugglers sacked Dutchman Dennis van Wijk.

Pfaff, a veteran of Belgium's 1982 and 1986 World Cup campaigns who won 64 international caps, has never coached a first division side before.

"I'm not afraid, I'm afraid of nothing," said Pfaff, who retired from the international scene in 1987. "I don't have anything to learn about soccer." Ostend chairman Eddy Vergeylen admitted Pfaff's appointment was risky. "It's a gamble, a challenge," he said. "But I'm giving him a chance."

Van Wijk was the third first division coach to lose his job this season following the departures of fellow Dutchmen Arie Haan from Anderlecht and Johan Boskamp from Ghent.

Ostend have won just once in 11 games and lie second from bottom in the 18-team league

Berti Vogts

Germany's former manager Berti Vogts has denied a suggestion that he is interested in becoming South Africa's new coach.

South African Football Association chief executive Danny Jordaan said Tuesday that Vogts had faxed a request to be interviewed for the post left vacant after Philippe Troussier's departure following the World Cup.

But the 51-year-old Vogts told a news agency Wednesday: "There is not the slightest chance of talks with the South African federation.

"I am looking at a lot of interesting offers, but South Africa is not one of them."

With Vogts ruling himself out of contention the South African job looks to rest between Carlos Alberto Parreira, coach of the 1994 Brazil World Cup-winning team, former Dutch star Ruud Krol, and local coaches Gordon Igesund, Ephraim Mashaba and Trott Moloto.

The Straight Dope

Officials and star cyclist Marco Pantani have both called for a crackdown on doping in Italian sport, amid reports that at least two footballers have been using EPO.

Turin judge Raffaele Guariniello would not comment on reports that either a doctor or a drugs company executive has recently told him about the use of a homeopathic medicine containing banned substances.

The medicine mixed with EPO, which increases the amount of oxygen in the blood, and growth hormone was reportedly tried out by two footballers who subsequently came back for more.

Guariniello is looking into the black market for drugs among professional and amateur sportsmen, and is now supported by an enquiry by the local Piedmont regional authorities.

Their enquiry opened after regional health chief Antonio D'Ambrosio discovered that spending on growth hormone in Piedmont alone totaled 18 billion lira ($11 million) in 1997.

"And I don't think that we are a people of dwarves," he said.

The reports came as the national football federation announced a raft of measures to tighten up doping controls here, as Italy tries to recover from having its dope-test procedures exposed as a shambles.

Italy will introduce blood and urine testing and the federation is setting up a new scientific commission to monitor them.

An awareness campaign, entitled "I'm not risking my health", will be aimed at footballers, warning them of the dangers of using banned drugs.

Federation president Luciano Nizzola, whose future was in doubt during the worst of the recent drugs controversy, said: "We have to deal with this problem and be forceful about it.

"In 15 years' involvement in football, I have never felt such a pressing need to take the question of doping seriously."

The problems in Italian soccer were meanwhile the backdrop for some bitter comments from top rider Pantani, who did the Tour de France/Tour of Italy double this year.

Pantani, addressing the Italian cyclists' union, said: "There are sports which are much developed than ours in terms of the business interests and money involved, and where the controls haven't been made.

"Any yet, they have not been the object of suspicion and criticism like we have been. We don't want to be treated like the black sheep of sport, we want to be treated like all the others.

"And don't forget that it was the riders themselves who called for blood testing."

Pantani also called for riders to be given a bigger say in issues decided by the International Cycling Union led by Heine Verbruggen.

"I want us to have a central role: we are the heart of cycling and yet we end up being the victims," he said. "We want to be able to discuss our problems democratically with Verbruggen."

A French doctor who lives in Italy admitted that he gives the banned drug EPO to Serie A footballers.

Jerome Malzac also told the Gazzetta dello Sport that he has been questioned by Turin state prosecutor Raffaele Guariniello, who is investigating doping and the black market for drugs in Italy.

Malzac, who works from Milan to Sardegna and believes in homeopathic medicines in sport, is the author of a pamphlet recommending the use of Erithropoetine 4CH (EPO) even during halftime, the paper said.

Asked if he doped athletes, Malzac said: 'Absolutely not. Doping is the absorption of external substances. What I propose is a medicine which activates elements (which are already in the body).

EPO makes the body produce more red corpuscles in the blood, which means more oxygen can be carried and an athlete has more energy and feels less tired as a result. However, thickening up the blood with more red corpuscles also raises the danger of the blood clotting.

Challenged that his product can cause a blood-clot, or thrombosis, Malzac said: 'Thrombosis will not happen because it is the organism itself which sets things in motion, if it's required.'

Asked about his recommendation that players use EPO 4CH at halftime, he said: 'I can confirm that. And I have had footballers among the athletes I have treated... from the Serie A.

'Certain substances can increase performance by up to three times in terms of people's sprinting ability and recovery from effort, even at halftime. And even after the match.

'There are ways of recovering quicker, of getting less injured and playing more. An example? There were a few players who suffered from cramp. At halftime, you cool down. But with Erithropoetine 4CH you don't get that any more.'

Compiled by **EUROPE** Soccer Weekly's Mark Fowler

BAYERN LOSES

Leaders Bayern Munich slumped to their first league defeat of the season when they had a man sent off and lost 1-0 at promoted Eintracht Frankfurt in the German first division. Eintracht midfielder Thomas Sobotzik scored the only goal of the match in the 32nd minute to stop Bayern's superb run of eight wins and a draw.

Sobotzik delighted the 58,000 crowd packing Frankfurt's stadium by collecting a headed pass from captain Ralf Weber to beat Bayern 'keeper Oliver Kahn from close range.

Bayern, who dominated but were clumsy in front of goal, were reduced to 10 men when striker Carsten Jancker was sent off for a second bookable offence in the 61st minute.

They still have a comfortable five-point lead over city rivals TSV 1860 Munich, who lost 3-2 at home to lowly VfL Wolfsburg.

Bayern and TSV 1860 clash in a top-of-the-table derby next Saturday.

"We played badly, especially in the first half," said Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, whose men face a tough test away to Barcelona in the Champions' League on Wednesday.

"We gave Eintracht far too many opportunities. They deserved their victory."

Eintracht, who had only won once this season, moved two places up to 14th.

TSV, who had lined up eight matches without defeat, went 2-0 down after goals from Detlev Dammeier and Steffen Baumgart in the seventh and 47th minutes respectively.

Striker Markus Schroth restored hope for the "Lions," re-emerging as a soccer force after years in the doldrums, by reducing the arrears in the 84th minute.

But two minutes later, Marijan Kovacevik put Wolfsburg 3-1 up from the penalty spot.

With the issue already beyond doubt, striker Bernd Hobsch scored another goal for the home side in the dying moments.

"Our strategy was to put them under pressure but after they took the lead, we became nervous," said TSV coach Werner Lorant. "After we went 3-1 down, I understood that we would lose."

Wolfsburg, recovering from a disastrous start to the season, have now won their last two matches. They climb three places up to 11th in the 18-strong league.

Borussia Dortmund and Ruhr Valley neighbours Schalke 04 were forced to postpone their home games because of flooded pitches.

The match in Gelsenkirchen between Schalke and SC Freiburg will be played today Tuesday November 3. No new date has been set for the Dortmund-Hamburg SV match.

Veteran goal-scoring midfielder Andreas Moeller will be back in the Germany team for the friendly against the Netherlands next month, said coach Erich Ribbeck.

Moeller, 31, was one of several members of Germany's old guard cast aside by former coach Berti Vogts after the World Cup quarter-final defeat to Croatia last July in France.

Ribbeck, who was appointed after Vogts resigned amid intense media pressure last month, said he had made his decision after talking to the Borussia Dortmund player last week.

"He is an important player for us," said Ribbeck. ``He's got a great vision of the game, he's fast and he can also score goals."

Ribbeck said Moeller would earn his 83rd cap against the Netherlands on November 18 in Gelsenkirchen.

"We need him," he said. "I'm not recalling him to leave him on the bench."

The German coach will announce is squad on November 12.

The troubles in Albanian soccer continue, as first division club SK Tirana Tirana were awarded a 2-0 victory on Saturday after visitors Skenderbeu Korce boycotted the match in protest at a soccer federation decision to dock them three points.

Radio Tirana said SK Tirana Tirana waited for 30 minutes on the pitch for Skenderbeu Korce. When they failed to show, the federation awarded the home side the win and three points.

e dispute dates back to October 3 when Skenderbeu's 3-2 victory over championship leaders Vllaznia Shkoder was overturned by the soccer federation after players and fans from both teams fought each other and attacked the referee.

The federation awarded Vllaznia a 2-0 victory and three championship points.

Appeals from club officials and fans to revoke the decision were rejected earlier this week.

The decision dropped Skenderbeu to 16th and last in the championship. A week later, the team won a home match held in a neutral stadium and moved up to 14th.

ian soccer has been marred by player violence on the pitch while recent political turmoil in the country prompted UEFA to postpone the countries European championship Group 2 qualifier against Greece from October 10 to November 18.

Former European footballer of the year Jean-Pierre Papin looked close to retirement as he announced he was leaving French second division side En Avant Guingamp.

The former Olympique Marseille, AC Milan and Bayern Munich player has had a tense relationship with Guingamp coach Francis Smerecki since joining the Brittany side from Bordeaux at the start of the season.

Papin, 35, said through his agent that he needed a few days to think about his future. But he said on Monday he would probably retire should he leave Guingamp.

The former French international, who played 54 times for his country, said he would probably stage a charity match in the summer in Marseille, where he spent six seasons.

RONALDO BUYS INTO INTER

Ronaldo said he was buying Inter Milan stock to squelch speculation that he might join Manchester United.

Ronaldo spoke after Inter president Massimo Moratti revealed he will be selling the Brazilian part of his family's near-70 percent share in the club.

"I talked about it with the president, I made a proposal and he accepted," said the striker at Inter's Appiano Gentile training ground.

"If my intention is to become a shareholder in Inter, it's because it is also my intention to stay with the club for a great many years yet.

"It's the club which has shown the most faith in me and which has never put me under pressure. I feel really happy with Inter and want to stay here."

The Brazilian said he had been considering buying a stake for some time. "But I have decided to make that desire public now because I've been annoyed by the speculation at one stage that I might be going back to Barcelona, and another time that I was transferring to Manchester United.

"This, on the other hand, is a strong signal."

He would not be drawn on details of the operation, saying only: "What Inter gives me is far more than I am giving to Inter."

Inter is a private company with few shareholders — club sponsor Pirelli has 13 percent, another Milanese family 12 percent and Inter's bankers five percent. Small shareholders have only 0.5 percent of the club.

"Given the difficulty in finding Inter shares available, I will sell him some of mine," Moratti said, who claimed the striker was making a sound investment despite announcing a near-$30 million loss.

Inter's dismal finances are only temporary, Moratti said, blaming the red balance sheet mainly on the European Court's "Bosman ruling" in December 1995, which changed the way clubs keep their books.

Pre-Bosman, clubs could even include the market value of players whose contracts were expiring, as a buyer would still have pay them a transfer fee. But by outlawing transfer fees on players whose contracts had expired, those assets vanished, and the court wiped hundreds of millions of dollars off the books of Europe's soccer clubs.

Moratti said that 24 billion of the 45 billion lira loss for the 1997-98 season was down to Bosman write-offs. But he insisted: "Ronaldo knows that he is making an excellent investment. "From 1999 onwards, when the new TV rights contract with Telepiu starts, along with the new ones for European matches and the new sponsorship deals — Inter will be worth as much as Manchester United: 1,770 billion lira (over $1 billion)."

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Compiled by **EUROPE** Soccer Weekly

SWEDEN

Frolunda	0	Gothenburg	3
Oster	1	Halmstad	1
Hammarby	1	Malmo	3
Helsingborg	2	Elfsborg	0
Orgryte	2	Hacken	1
Trelleborg	0	AIK	0
Norrkoping	4	Orebro	0

Leading scorers in the Swedish first division after matches on Saturday:

18 - Arild Stavrum (Helsingborg)
3 - Hans Berggren (Hammarby)
12 - Christer Mattiasson (Elfsborg)
11 - Mats Lilienberg (Halmstad)
10 - Dan Sahlin (Orebro), Henrik Bertilsson (Orgryte),
Dejan Pavlovic (Malmo)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Helsingborg	25	12	8	5	42	26	44
2. AIK	25	10	13	2	24	15	43
3. Hammarby	25	10	9	6	38	34	39
4. Halmstad	25	11	5	9	39	40	38
5. Frolunda	25	10	7	8	29	31	37
6. Orebro	25	10	6	9	35	37	36
7. Norrkoping	25	9	7	9	42	34	34
8. Gothenburg	25	9	7	9	26	28	34
9. Malmo	25	9	5	11	35	30	32
10. Elfsborg	25	8	8	9	35	32	32
11. Trelleborg	25	8	8	9	31	32	32
12. Orgryte	25	7	7	11	35	35	28
13. Hacken	25	6	6	13	25	45	24
14. Oster	25	5	6	14	25	42	21

Fixtures for Nov. 8:

Malmo	vs.	rolunda
Gothenburg	vs	Oster
Orebro	vs	Hammarby
Elfsborg	vs	Norrkoping
Hacken	vs	Helsingborg
AIK	vs	Orgyte
Halmstad	vs	Trelleborg

AUSTRIA

Results of fourth round matches in the Austrian Cup on Saturday.

Horn (regional)	0	Ried	3
Spittal (I)	0	LASK Linz	1
Schwechat (regional)	0	Branau (I)	4
Rapid Vienna	3	Woergl (I)	0
Sturm Graz	2	Bregenz (I)	1
St.Poelten (I)	0	Graz AK	4
Admira/Wacker (I)	2	SV Salzburg	2

(After extra time. SV Salzburg 4-2 on penalties)

Lustenau	3	Leoben (I)	1

(After extra time)

BELARUS

Torpedo Minsk	6	Kommunalnik Slonim	0
Torpedo-Kadino Mogilev	0	Molodechno	1
Belshina Bobruisk	2	Shakhtyor Soligorsk	1
Dynamo Brest	0	Lokomotiv-96 Vitebsk	1
BATE Borisov	1	Dnepr-Transmash Mogilev	0
Gomel	4	Dynamo Minsk	3
Slavia Mozyr	3	Neman Grodno	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Dnepr-Transmash Mogilev	28	21	4	3	55	14	67
2. BATE Borisov	28	18	4	6	50	25	58
3. Belshina Bobruisk	28	17	6	5	47	17	57
4. Lokomotiv-96 Vitebsk	28	14	6	8	35	24	48
5. Gome	28	12	9	7	6	30	45
6. Slavia Mozyr	28	12	9	7	41	36	45
7. Torpedo Minsk	28	12	8	8	44	22	44
8. Dynamo Minsk	28	11	6	11	39	38	39
9. Dynamo Brest	28	12	2	14	40	40	38
10. Neman Grodno	28	8	7	13	27	44	31
11. Shakhtyor Soligorsk	28	8	6	14	33	54	30
12. Torpedo-Kadino Mogilev	28	7	8	13	30	40	29
13. Naftan-Devon Novopolotsk	28	7	4	17	33	47	25
14. Molodechno	28	4	4	20	21	51	16
15. Kommunalnik Slonim	28	3	5	20	14	63	14

Note: Dynamo-93 Minsk dropped out in mid-season and their results have been nullified.

GERMANY

Eintracht Frankfurt 1 **Bayern Munich** 0
Thomas Sobotzik 32
Halftime 1-0;
Attendance: 58,300

TSV 1860 Munich 2 **VfL Wolfsburg** 3
Markus Schroth 84
Bernd Hobsch 90
Halftime: 0-1
Attendance: 26,000
Detlev Dammeier 7
Steffen Baumgar 47
Marijan Kovacevic 86

Werder Bremen 1 **MSV Duisburg** 1
Bogdanovic 73
Halftime: 0-1
Attendance: 25,509
Joerg Neun 24

Borussia Moenchengladbach 2 **Bayer Leverkusen** 8
Toni Polster 47
Chiquinho 68
Halftime: 4-0
Attendance: 29,900
Ulf Kirsten 10, 16, 40pen
Ze Roberto 34
Jens Nowotny 52
Thomas Reichenberger 58, 59
Nico Kovac 64

VfB Stuttgart 4 **VfL Bochum** 2
Jonathan Akpoborie 1 47
Bradley Carnell 11
Sreto Ristic 87
Halftime: 2-1
Attendance: 22,000
Maurizio Gaudino 6
Thomas Reis 53

Kaiserslautern 3 **Hansa Rostock** 2
Olaf Marschall 50pen,
Michael Ballack 67
Uwe Roesler 73
Halftime: 0-2
Attendance: 39,910
Igor Pamic 3
Oliver Neuville 23

SPAIN

Real Madrid stormed back to the top of the Spanish first division on Saturday, extending their perfect road record this season with a 5-1 win at Extremadura.

Croatian Robert Jarni scored less than a minute after kickoff and Madrid got goals from five different players to rout Extramdura 5-1 Saturday, retaking the Spanish first-division lead at least for a day.

Jarni's countryman Davor Suker also scored as Madrid improved to 5-2-1 and 17 points, two more than Mallorca, which plays its eighth-round match Sunday when it travels to La Coruna.

In other games Saturday, Barcelona moved back into second place with a 4-1 victory over Real Sociedad. Elsewhere it was: Atletico Madrid 3, Alaves 0; Athletic Bilbao 2, Espanyol 2; Betis 1 Salamanca 0; Valencia 4, Zaragoza 1; and Racing Santander 2, Celta 2.

On Sunday Tenerife beat Villareal 5-2.

At Almendralejo, Jarni's goal put Madrid ahead quickly and Savio added a controversial header in the 22nd. Fernando Hierro's penalty made it 3-0 in the 37th.

Suker curled another in to make the score 4-0 in the 59th minute, and, after a sloppy defense allowed Carlos Alejandro Dure to score a compensation goal for Extremadura in the 66th, Clarence Seerdorf added the finale just before the final double whistle.

BARCELONA 4

REAL SOCIEDAD 1

At Barcelona, Brazilians Rivaldo and Sonny Anderson each scored a pair to rally Barca after it fell behind early.

Yugoslav Darko Kovacevic gave Sociedad the lead in the 24th but Rivaldo equalized only eight minutes later, and five minutes after that Anderson chested a ball in to give Barcelona the lead.

After the break Rivaldo returned to beat several defenders before scoring in the 63rd and Anderson added his second in the 87th.

RACING 2

CELTA 2

At Santander, Victor Sanchez scored his second - a penalty - with four minutes remaining to earn the draw for Racing and halting Celta from keeping up with the other front-runners.

Juan Sanchez gave Celta the lead just before halftime but Victor Sanchez equalized eight minutes into the second half.

Rafael Berges gave Celta the apparent victory in the 77th before Victor Sanchez earned Racing the point.

BETIS 1

SALAMANCA 0

At Seville, Oliverio 'Oli' Alvarez scored in the 55thminute to give Betis only its second victory of the season and Javier Clemente a successful debut as its coach after being dismissed as the Spanish national team coach following the World Cup.

The home crowd was ecstatic with the victory, hoping the victory can turn around a side that includes widely acclaimed Denilson and Finidi George.

ATLETICO 3

ALAVES 0

At Madrid, Jose Mari Romero and Italian Stefano Torrisi both scored in the first 18 minutes anAtletico recovered from last week's 4-0 embarrassing loss to Mallorca.

Romero's header in the seventh and Torrisi's in the 18th spotted Atletico to a 2-0 lead and Argentine Fernando Correa headed in a third in the final seconds.

The match was littered with yellow cards and Atletico played a man down for 40 minutes after Vladimir Jugovic of Yugoslavia was sent off with two in the 33rd minute. The manpower was equalized when Jorge Azcoitia was ejected with a red in the 73rd.

VALENCIA 4

ZARAGOZA 1

At Zaragoza, three second-half goals in 16 minutes lifted Valencia just ahead of Zaragoza with 12 points. Romania Adrian Ilie gave Valencia the lead in the second minute but Kily Gonzalez dre Zaragoza even in the 23rd.

In the second half Italian Cristiano Lucarelli scored in the 68th minute, Swede Stefan Schwarz followed in the 79th and Gaizka Mendieta finished the scoring in the 84th.

Athletic Bilbao 2, Espanyol 2 At Bilbao, Carolos Garcia scored in the first minute of injury time and Bilbao rallied for the draw after Espanyol midfielder Moises Arteaga was expelled in the 84th.

Paraguayan Miguel Angel Benitez scored twice for Espanyol - in the 1st and the 62nd minute, but the original equalizer in the 25th from Joseba Etxeberria kept Athletic in the game.

Compiled by **UK** Soccer Weekly

Going, going...gone!

Celtic last week completed the signing of Slovakian international captain Lubomir Moravcik from German side MSV Duisburg.

Midfielder Moravcik, 33, has won 74 international caps representing Czechoslovakia and Slovakia and the fee is believed to be in the region of 300,000 pounds (450,000 dollars).

"Having worked with Lubomir at international level, I know of his qualities as a playmaker and a versatile, attacking midfielder," Celtic head coach Jozef Venglos said.

A 14-year-old English football fan is suing a club after her arm was broken when she was struck by a ball in a pre-match warm-up.

Charlotte Morris, of Bradford, has won legal aid to fight her claims of negligence and recklessness against Huddersfield Town and their former reserve goalkeeper, Kevin Blackwell.

Charlotte's arm was broken in two places before a Huddersfield division two away match against Wycombe Wanderers in 1994, when she was 10.

Her father Alan said Blackwell, who coaches at Bury, had been kicking the ball to the regular goalkeeper as the teams warmed up. He aimed for the net but it went wide and hit Charlotte in the crowd.

Alan Morris said: "It was a wild shot, but he did not do it deliberately," Morris said. "Charlotte put up her hand to protect her face and her arm was broken in two places."

It was initially thought Charlotte had only sprained her arm, but she was still in pain several days later and x-rays revealed it was broken.

"The bone has healed, but her arm still aches in cold weather," Morris added.

The hearing is scheduled to take place at Bradford County Court this month.

Tony Blair

Tony Blair has told the House of Commons that he was confident of England's chances of hosting the 2006 World Cup.

But he conceded that in the light of comments earlier this week by Sepp Blatter, the head of football's world governing body FIFA, South Africa were the favourites.

Blair said FIFA president Blatter had made it clear at a recent meeting with him that there was a 'strong case' for an African country to host the tournament.

But Blair added that while he 'obviously recognised the strong case for an African country to host the 2006 World Cup if they have the right facilities and the right infrastructure to do it, he recognised the very, very powerful case that England has with the finest stadia in the world, with massive new investment in that stadia and England, of course, as he pointed out himself, being the motherland of football'.

Blair, a Newcastle United fan, said the 300 million pound (500 million dollar) redevelopment of Wembley Stadium would make it the finest stadium anywhere in the world'.

South Africa are widely considered to be the current favourite for hosting the tournament, while Germany are also in the running.

Chester City supporters are hoping to attract England superstar Michael Owen for a fund-raising match in a bid to save the embattled English third division club from extinction.

The 18-year-old Liverpool ace was born in the city and his appearance, along with other former stars such as Ian Rush and Lee Dixon, would provide a boost to hopes of keeping the club afloat after it was put in the hands of administrators.

Michael's father, Terry Owen, made 141 League appearances and scored 40 times for the club between 1972 and 1976.

"Terry was always held with a great deal of affection by the fans," said supporters' association chairman Michael Fair.

"He was a 100 percent committed player, and the fans loved him when he played in the 1970s.

"The ISA have raised with the club the possibility of a benefit match using former players or players that have an association with the club. "Wouldn't it be nice to see one of Chester's old players, Terry Owen, playing on the same pitch as his son Michael?"

English first division Bristol City named Sweden's Benny Lennartsson as their new director of coaching, effectively making him the club's eighth manager in the last 10 years.

Lennartsson, 55, was technical director of the Swedish World Cup side which finished third in the United States in 1994.

Manager John Ward walked out on Tuesday after he was informed of Lennartsson's imminent arrival. City are 20th in the 24-team division with just three wins in 16 matches.

A woman who bared herself to a crowd of football fans following the 1998 FA Cup final was fined 500 pounds ($800 after admitting being involved in post-match disturbances.

Victoria Hopps, 23, appeared at Newcastle Magistrates Court charged with attempting to cause criminal damage and a public order offence after Arsenal's 2-0 win over Newcastle at Wembley on May 16.

She was charged after police released close circuit television footage and photographs of people they wished to question in connection with disturbances in Newcastle city centre.

Hopps was seen on police video using a tree to try to smash the glass in a telephone box.

She was also seen flashing her breasts to the crowd and was then observed on top of the telephone box with her trousers and underpants around her ankles allowing several men to grope her.

Her defence lawyer, David Singleton, admitted Hoops had consumed around three bottles of normal strength lager after which she remembered vomiting, although she could not recall subsequent events.

"She apologises for any embarrassment caused to her family, friends and any passers-by. She is a responsible person who for some unidentified reason acted in this way," Singleton said.

Crystal Palace sold record signing Valeren Ismael to French champions Lens for 1.3 million pounds ($2.1 million) - less than half of what they paid for him 10 months ago.

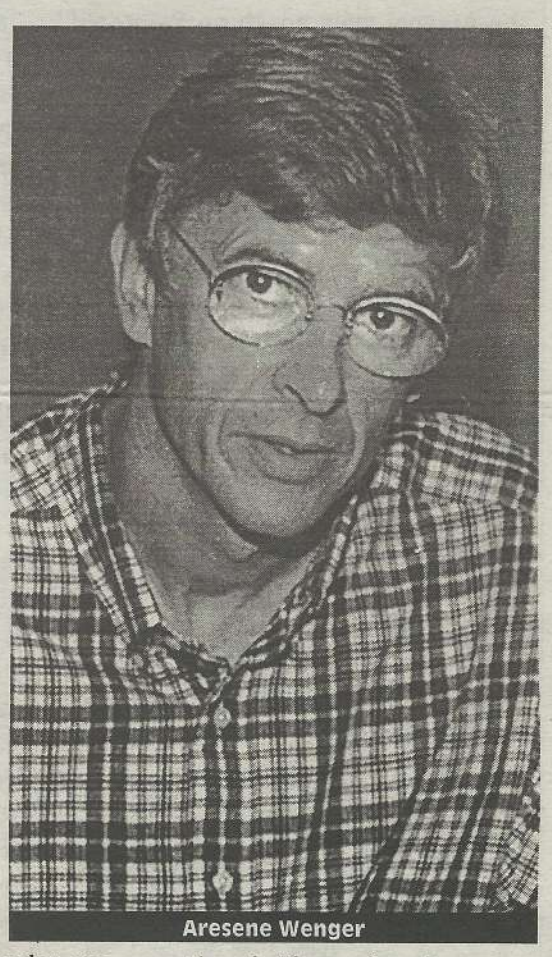
Ismael, a France Under-21 international, was signed by Palace's then boss Steve Coppell from Strasbourg for 2.75 million pounds in January.

He has joined Lens on a four-year contract, and the French club's manager Daniel Leclercq said: "We agreed a deal on Monday and he was very honest with us as he has a slight injury."

Ismael suffered nagging injury problems, making only 13 League appearances as Palace were relegated from the Premiership, and has not played since Terry Venables took over as manager.

WENGER HAS LAST LAUGH

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger, who steered the English Premiership club to an historic League and Cup double last season, has revealed that the players laughed at his training methods when he arrived two years ago.


Aresene Wenger

"When I went to Arsenal I was not exactly greeted with open arms and had to overcome a good deal of resistance," Wenger told Total Football magazine.

"Initially everyone laughed at my training methods; they found them ridiculous but they did what they were told because they were curious.

"Pat Rice helped me a lot. He's red and white through and through. A good assistant is vital and he's a good assistant."

Wenger also believes that his spell in charge of J-League side Grampus Eight helped prepare him for life at the sharp end of Premiership life.

"Compared to Japan, London was like coming home for me," said Wenger. "I don't think I would have survived. I've learned to have a thick skin.'

Wenger admitted that after his arrival at Highbury he made a personal pledge not to sell any of the established players although there were initial tensions between the English and the overseas contingent.

"I wanted to create, if you like, a cultural identity for the club. At first there were lots of petty jealousies. The English players considered the French players as softies.

"Only when they started to watch them play in training did we manage to get the spirit I was looking for," Wenger said.

Tottenham Hotspur pinpointed a strong rise in player costs as the cause for a 29 percent drop in annual operating profit on Thursday.

"Owing to the increased cost of the playing department, operating profits fell to 6.2 million pounds (from 8.6 million) despite our increased revenues," chairman Alan Sugar said in a statement issued with annual results.

Player costs for the year rose by 5.4 million pounds ($9.15 million) to 16 million pounds -- 51 percent of total revenues. The club reported a pre-tax loss of 900,000 pounds once player trading was taken into account.

Wage inflation is regarded as one of the issues which English soccer clubs need to tackle if they are to operate successfully as businesses. Lucrative television deals have pumped massive sums into the game in recent years but much of this has gone into the pockets of the players.

Sugar said he was hopeful that the club could revive its fortunes on the pitch under new manager George Graham.

"Together, and with the goodwill of the club's devoted supporters, I am confident that we can reinstate

Spurs as one of the 'big clubs' again, fulfilling the ambitions of supporters and shareholders alike," he said.

Tottenham struggled to avoid relegation last season under Swiss coach Christian Gross, who was dismissed last month.

David Ginola

Sugar said that "negative media reporting had resulted in a breakdown in confidence throughout the club" in the run-up to the departure of Gross. Sugar thanked Gross for his "honest and totally dedicated endeavours" during his brief time at the club.

Tottenham also announced plans to launch an insurance broking service later this month offering household, car and trave insurance to Spurs supporters.

A new Spurs credit card will follow mext month and a building society deposit scheme will also be introduced before the end of the year.

Compiled by **UK** Soccer Weekly

NEWS DESK

A security guard died from severe head injuries after he was crushed in an accident involving the Arsenal team coach on Saturday, police said.

The incident happened before the Coventry-Arsenal English Premiership game as the bus, carrying the English champions, arrived at Highfield Road stadium.

The guard was apparently guiding the bus into the stadium complex when he was trapped and crushed.

Paramedics desperately worked to save the man before he was rushed to Coventry and Warwick Hospital where he was pronounced dead after sustaining severe head injuries.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "There was an incident involving the Arsenal team coach and a full-time member of the Coventry City Football Club security staff.

"The circumstances of this incident are still being investigated by police but it appears there was a collision between the coach and the man, who was taken to hospital with serious head injuries and has subsequently died."

Superintendent Bob Minshull confirmed the Arsenal players were on the coach when the tragedy happened.

World Cup champion France will travel to Wembley on Feb. 10 for a friendly matchup with England.

Talks are close to being finalized to bring Roger Lemerre's stars to London after a positive reaction to an invitation sent by the English Football Association (FA) to their French counterparts.

The FA's director of public affairs David Davies said: "We are hoping for permission for the game to go ahead to be received in the next few days."

England coach Glenn Hoddle agreed a new contract with the Football Association (F.A.) on Saturday that ties his pay to success on the pitch, the F.A. announced.

Hoddle had widely been reported in the English media as asking for a 40 percent, 100,000 pounds ($167,900)-a-year pay rise to take him nearer to the salary of leading premier league club managers.

A statement from the F.A. on Saturday said: "Agreement has been reached between the England coach and the F.A. following a review of his contract.

His new financial package is linked to success in Euro 2000. He has been promised further financial rewards the further England progress."

GIGGS OUT TILL DECEMBER

Manchester United winger Ryan Giggs will miss a month with a broken foot, United manager Alex Ferguson announced.

Giggs had been struggling with the injury since the victory over Liverpool a month ago, and when he made his return against Derby he received another blow to his left foot.

United sent the winger for X-rays this week when he was barely able to walk and could not get a boot on. It was then discovered that he had broken a small bone in his left foot.

Ferguson said: "It is a bad blow for us, particularly with the crucial Champions League game in Barcelona only three weeks away.

"We discovered the injury after he was hurt again playing against Derby."

It means that Swedish winger Jesper Blomqvist will retain his left-wing role in the United lineup.

Coach Gianluca Vialli criticized the decision to call off Chelsea's match against English Premiership leader Aston Villa because of a waterlogged pitch at Stamford Bridge.

The postponement meant that Brian Laudrup, in the starting lineup as one of nine changes from the side which beat Villa 4-1 in the League Cup in midweek, was denied a likely final home appearance.

The homesick striker may be sold to FC Copenhagen, by Chelsea's next home game against Wimbledon on Nov.

14 Referee Alan Wilkie called the game off an hour before the 3 p.m. kickoff after inspecting the pitch and deciding that patches of standing water posed a threat to the players.

"It was courageous to make the decision early," said Wilkie. "How would I have felt if

One of these extremely talented players had ended up with a serious injury?"

However, with Wimbledon's match against Blackburn having gone ahead just a few miles away, Vialli declared: "It is very strange when a referee calls off a match an hour before kick-off without allowing us time to sort out the pitch.

"I know the forecast said it was going to rain all afternoon but the pitch was playable at 2 p.m. He should have waited until 3 p.m. and then seen what it was like."

Villa boss John Gregory was more supportive of Wilkie, saying: "It was a commonsense decision. The pitch was pretty awful, and it didn't look like it would get any better, only worse."

Coventry City has fined Dion Dublin two weeks' pay for refusing to play in the club's League Cup match against Luton on Tuesday.

The striker is set to leave the premier league club, possibly to move to Aston Villa, and did not want to risk injury in the match against the second division side which Coventry lost 2-0.

Coventry manager Gordon Strachan said: "I hate to get into this situation with a player like Dion but what can you do?"

Strachan has refused to let Dublin train with the Coventry first team squad this week after the striker announced his intention to leave.

He turned down a move to Blackburn earlier in the week and could move to league leaders Villa in a six million pounds ($12m) deal.

FA CUP FIRST ROUND DRAW

Draw for the first round of the English F.A. Cup

Basingstoke Town or Dover Athletic	v	Bournemouth
St Albans or Kingstonian	v	Burton
Aldershot or Woking	v	Scunthorpe
Brentford	v	Camberley
Wycombe	v	Chesterfield
Southend	v	Doncaster
Manchester City	v	Halifax
Tamworth	v	Exeter
Swansea	v	Millwall
Emley or Gateshead	v	Rotherham
Wigan	v	Blackpool
Mansfield	v	Havant or Hayes
Hednesford	v	Barnet
Darlington	v	Burnley
Enfield	v	York
Carshalton Athletic or Salisbury City	v	Hull
Macclesfield	v	Crawley or Slough
Dulwich	v	Southport
Scarborough	v	Rochdale
Plymouth	v	Kidderminster
Northampton	v	Leek or Lancaster
Leyton Orient	v	Brighton
Farnborough Town or Yeovil Town	v	West Auckland
Walsall	v	Frickley or Gresley
Oldham Athletic	v	Gillingham
Preston	v	Ford United
Hartlepool	v	Carlisle
Worcester City or Langley Sports	v	Torquay United
Fulham	v	Leigh
Wrexham	v	Peterborough
Hendon or Bath	v	Notts County
Borehamwood	v	Luton Town
Bristol Rovers	v	Welling or Whyteleaf
Cardiff City	v	Chester City
Bedlington	v	Colchester
Leatherhead or Rushden and Diamonds	v	Shrewsbury
Cheltenham or Taunton	v	Lincoln City
Telford	v	Cambridge United
Reading	v	Stoke City
Runcorn	v	Dangenham or Stevenage

Ties to be played November 14 and 15.

WALES

Afan Lido	vs	Rhayader Town - *postponed*	
Bangor City	0	Barry Town	3
Conwy	1	Connah's Quay	3
Cwmbran Town	6	Caernarfon Town	0
Haverfordwest	5	Rhyl	2
Newtown	0	Carmarthen Town	0
TNS Llansantffraid	0	Aberystwyth	0

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Barry Town	9	7	7	1	27	7	22
2. Cwmbran Town	9	7	0	2	24	6	21
3. Aberystwyth	9	5	4	0	16	8	19
4. Haverfordwest	10	5	2	3	21	14	17
5. Newtown	9	4	4	1	16	9	16
6. Connah's Quay	9	4	3	2	14	12	15
7. Caernarfon Town	9	3	4	2	12	17	13
8. TNS Llansantffraid	8	3	3	2	16	9	12
9. Caersws	7	3	1	3	1	10	10
10. Carmarthen Town	9	3	1	5	14	16	10
11. Holywell Town	9	2	4	3	16	26	10
12. Bangor City	9	2	2	5	10	16	8
13. Conwy	9	2	1	6	12	18	7
14. Afan Lido	8	2	1	5	5	1	7
15. Rhy	10	2	1	7	17	30	7
16. ICT Cardiff	8	1	3	4	5	10	6
17. Rhayader Town	7	1	1	5	7	21	4

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ballymena United	1	Cliftonville	2
Crusaders	5	Omagh Town	0
Glenavon	1	Linfield	1
Glentoran	5	Coleraine	4
Newry	3	Portadown	2

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Glentoran	13	10	2	1	30	13	32
2. Linfield	13	8	3	2	22	11	27
3. Newry	13	7	4	2	25	18	2
4. Crusaders	13	6	3	4	15	1	2
5. Glenavon	13	5	3	5	18	16	1
6. Ballymena	13	5	3	5	12	11	1
7. Cliftonville	13	3	3	7	13	21	1
8. Coleraine	13	3	2	8	15	27	1
9. Omagh Town	13	3	2	8	9	23	1
10. Portadown	13	2	1	10	9	17	

Compiled and written by Daryl katz

UK

Continued from page two

Arsenal defeated Coventry City 1-0 at Highfield Road on Saturday in a match overshadowed by the death of a Coventry security guard.

The steward died from head injuries after being crushed by the Arsenal team bus as it entered the ground.

The Arsenal players stepped off the coach and filed past the scene as medical staff tried in vain to save the unfortunate middle-aged man.

It is a tribute to the players that they managed to retain their composure and concentration on a day marred by tragedy.

A lengthy Arsenal injury list meant that Dennis Bergkamp, Christopher Wreh and Tony Adams all missed the match, but Marc Overmars imposed himself, taking on the Coventry defence single-handedly.

The Dutchman signalled his intent in the first half, forcing a fine save from Coventry goalkeeper Magnus Hedman and setting up a series of chances for his teammates.

After 63 minutes, Overmars gathered the ball in his own half and embarked on a run at the Coventry goal. He cut inside full-back Roland Nilsson, left two more defenders trailing and unleashed a powerful right-footed shot.

Hedman could only parry the ball at full stretch and the rebound fell into the path of Nicolas Anelka who passed into an empty net.

As the French midfield duo of Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira began to dominate, it became clear that there would be no path back into the game for Coventry.

Darren Huckerby led the Coventry line admirably in the absence of Dion Dublin, currently involved in a row with manager Gordon Strachan. Gary McAllister and Noel Whelan worked hard in midfield but simply could not provide sufficient creativity and invention against opponents of such quality.

Coventry now drop below Nottingham Forest on goal difference and have only Southampton beneath them. Before much longer, their only source of consolation will be their traditional tenacity.

While restoring some pride following their humiliating Worthington Cup exit in midweek against lowly Luton, Strachan knows that he will need to utilise the funds from the pending sale of Dublin wisely to avert the drop.

At Pride Park on Saturday, Derby County striker Dean Sturridge denied David O'Leary the spoils of victory on his debut as a premiership manager by scoring one goal and setting up another.

Derby, determined to halt a miserable slump of four defeats in five games, received a boost after only three minutes. Sturridge cut in to the Leeds area on typical surging run, only for a late challenge from Leeds defender Robert Molenaar to send the striker sprawling.

Stephan Schnoor stepped up to put Derby ahead with a low drive from the resulting penalty.

Obviously distressed by his error, Molenaar made amends with a classic equaliser 13 minutes later. Lee Bowyer, Ian Harte and David Hopkin worked a set-piece down the right wing, and when Hopkin whipped in a curling cross Molenaar converted with a powerful header.

Leeds dominated the remainder of the half, displaying some impressive movement and passing, although it was County who should have regained the lead on the half-hour.

Steve Elliott's long ball from the back was flicked on by Paulo Wanchope after beating Lucas Radebe in the air, but Sturridge placed his first time shot past the post.

Inspired by the midfield tenacity of Bowyer, Leeds took the lead two minutes from the interval following a corner from Harte. The ball fell straight to Australian international Harry Kewell who chested it down before unleashing a drive that was deflected past Russell Hoult in the Derby goal.

The departure of Radebe with an injury early in the second half seemed to have a galvanising effect on Derby as Leeds struggled to maintain their shape at the back.

Schnoor provided the 56th-minute through-ball for Sturridge to slide home his third goal of the season and give Derby a deserved draw. Sturridge left the field with an injury after 68 minutes.

O'Leary's side have now drawn all six away games in the premiership this season, but could have lost this point shortly before the whistle with Derby substitute Deon Burton missing a simple header from Wanchope's pinpoint cross.

West Ham striker Ian Wright tormented the St James Park faithful once again on Saturday with a brace of goals that sent Newcastle crashing to a home defeat.

Wright, match winner here for Arsenal twice in recent seasons, produced a classic performance as West Ham outshone Ruud Gullit's men.

The Hammers took control of the game in the second half following the sending off of Stuart Pearce for serious foul play.

Wright's first goal arrived after 55 minutes, and was a goal worthy of winning any match. Picking up the ball from Paul Kitson's header, Wright slipped past an attempted challenge from Laurent Charvet and rifled home a first time shot from 20 yards.

Sinclair added the second 20 minutes later when he exchanged passes with Kitson and finished from 12 yards.

Newcastle will no doubt claim that the somewhat harsh dismissal of Pearce changed the course of the game, but West Ham created chances even before his departure. Newcastle fullback Andrew Griffin made two excellent goal-line clearances, denying Neil Ruddock and Sinclair.

Newcastle could point to a disallowed goal by the England captain Alan Shearer and a penalty appeal after Paul Dalglish was challenged in the box by Andrew Impey, but referee Graham Poll appeared to make the correct decision in both cases.

West Ham boss Harry Redknapp left John Hartson and Eyal Berkovic on the bench and gave a starting place to Newcastle old boy Kitson. He appeared to struggle with the pace of the game, but still claimed assists for each of the first two goals.

However, it was Ian Wright's day and he made sure of that with his second strike, which arrived in injury time.

Sheffield Wednesday continued their barren run in front of goal with a dour goalless draw against fellow strugglers Southampton at Hillsborough on Saturday.

The home fans booed striker Andy Booth mercilessly and Richie Humphreys remained ineffective as bottom club Southampton earned a much-needed point.

Southampton were hardly a penetrative attacking force but they carried more threat than their opponents, who took 84 minutes to force Paul Jones into a save.

After seeing his side gain their first victory of the season against Coventry last week, Saints boss Dave Jones entered the match with greater confidence than opposite number Danny Wilson.

Carlton Palmer set the standard for Southampton, covering every inch of the pitch. Red and white shirts flooded the midfield area, crushing most of Wednesday's attacks, while winger Stuart Ripley gave fellow England international Andy Hinchcliffe a hard time down the Saints' right.

Egil Ostenstad and Palmer spurned opportunities either side of the break, while Wednesday's Wim Jonk saw a shot from the edge of the area fly over, although Jones appeared to have it well covered.

Ken Monkou then appeared to get a hand in the way of Booth's goal-bound header, although a penalty decision would have been harsh and something Wednesday's dismal attacking play barely warranted.

Booth had a shot charged down in a final mad scramble but the abuse floating round Hillsborough at the final whistle told its own story.

Danny Wilson's side have now gone four matches without a goal and he must be praying for the return of the suspended Paulo di Canio.

Meanwhile, at Selhurst Park, Marcus Gayle secured his third goal in two premiership games to earn Wimbledon another home point 15 minutes from time.

In an exciting match played in driving rain, Blackburn took the lead early in the second half. Referee Gary Willard awarded a penalty after Ben Thatcher hauled down Blackburn midfielder Damien Johnson from behind.

The Wimbledon players berated the referee, clearly convinced Johnson had dived. However, the controversy did not affect Chris Sutton, who hammered home the spot kick.

Wimbledon, after having the better of the first half, suddenly faced an uphill battle in the wind and rain.

After a typical fightback the Dons earned their point, Marcus Gayle slotting home from six yards after an Alan Kimble cross. The ball seemed to take a slight deflection off the chest of Robbie Earle as it crossed the line.

There was still time for Blackburn's $10 million new boy Nathan Blake to clinch the win, but goalkeeper Neill Sullivan saved superbly. Blake had a final opportunity five minutes from time, shooting inches wide of the far post.

Right at the death, Rovers were still trying to snatch their first away league win of the season and skipper Tim Sherwood saw his shot scraped off the line by Alan Kimble after Sutton's shot had been blocked.

RESULTS

Chelsea	Postponed	**Aston Villa**	
Middlesbrough Deane (22)	1	**Forest** Harewood (88)	1
Coventry City	0	**Arsenal** Anelka (63)	1
Derby County Schnoor (pen 3) Sturridge (56)	2	**Leeds United** Molenaar (16) Kewell (43)	2
Everton Ferguson (30)	1	**Manchester Utd** Yorke (14) Short (og 23) Blomqvist (64) Cole (59)	4
Leicester City Cottee (78)	1	**Liverpool**	0
Newcastle Utd	0	**West Ham United** Wright (55, 90) Sinclair (76)	3
Sheffield W	0	**Southampton**	0
Wimbledon Earle (75)	1	**Bl/burn Rovers** Sutton (pen 46)	1
Monday Spurs v Charlton			

Italian Lorenzo Amoruso of Glasgow Rangers struck the winning goal against Dundee United five minutes from time on Saturday to keep his side top of the Scottish premier league.

Rangers came from behind to beat United 2-1, leaving them one point clear of second-placed Kilmarnock, who maintained the pressure with a 2-0 home victory over Celtic.

Amoruso has been criticised recently for poor performances and a dismal disciplinary record. He led from the front at Ibrox though, heading in an 85th minute corner from Giovanni van Bronckhorst to seal victory.

Rangers, who lost three days ago to Motherwell, looked to be staring another defeat in the face when United played them off the pitch in the first half and were rewarded with a goal from Scotland striker Billy Dodds in the 25th minute.

However, Rod Wallace equalised for Rangers in the 61st minute with his 12th goal of the season, finishing off Arthur Numan's cross.

Any other result for Rangers would have seen Kilmarnock go top after their defeat of champions Celtic with goals from Mark Roberts and Ally Mitchell.

Roberts headed in a cross from Mitchell in the 55th minute and Mitchell drove home an 18-metre shot in the 70th minute.

Celtic, now seven points behind city rivals Rangers, had Stephane Mahe sent off in the 88th minute for his second bookable offence.

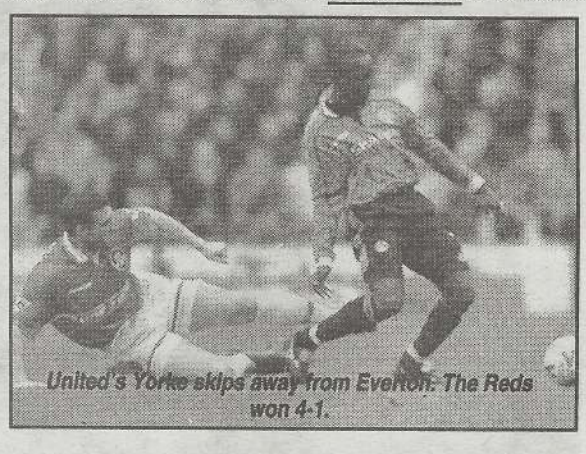
St Johnstone are level with Celtic following their 1-1 draw at Dunfermline where John Mcquillan's 52nd minute drive from the edge of the area cancelled a 22nd minute goal from Andy Smith.

John Spencer was again the hero for Motherwell following his debut goal against Rangers in midweek. The Scotland international, on loan from Everton, sparked a comeback after Aberdeen had gone 2-0 ahead.

Spencer struck in the 46th minute and then Jamie McGowan's 69th minute header made it 2-2.

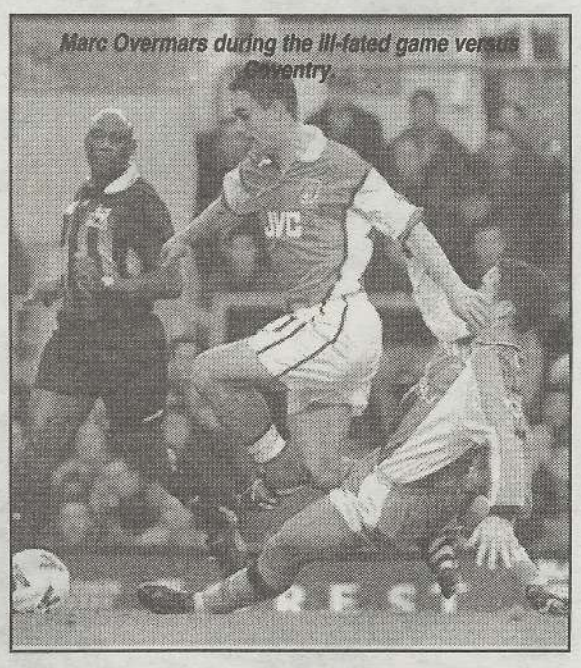
Dundee defeated Hearts 1-0 after a Weir own goal in the 76th minute.

PREMIER PIX



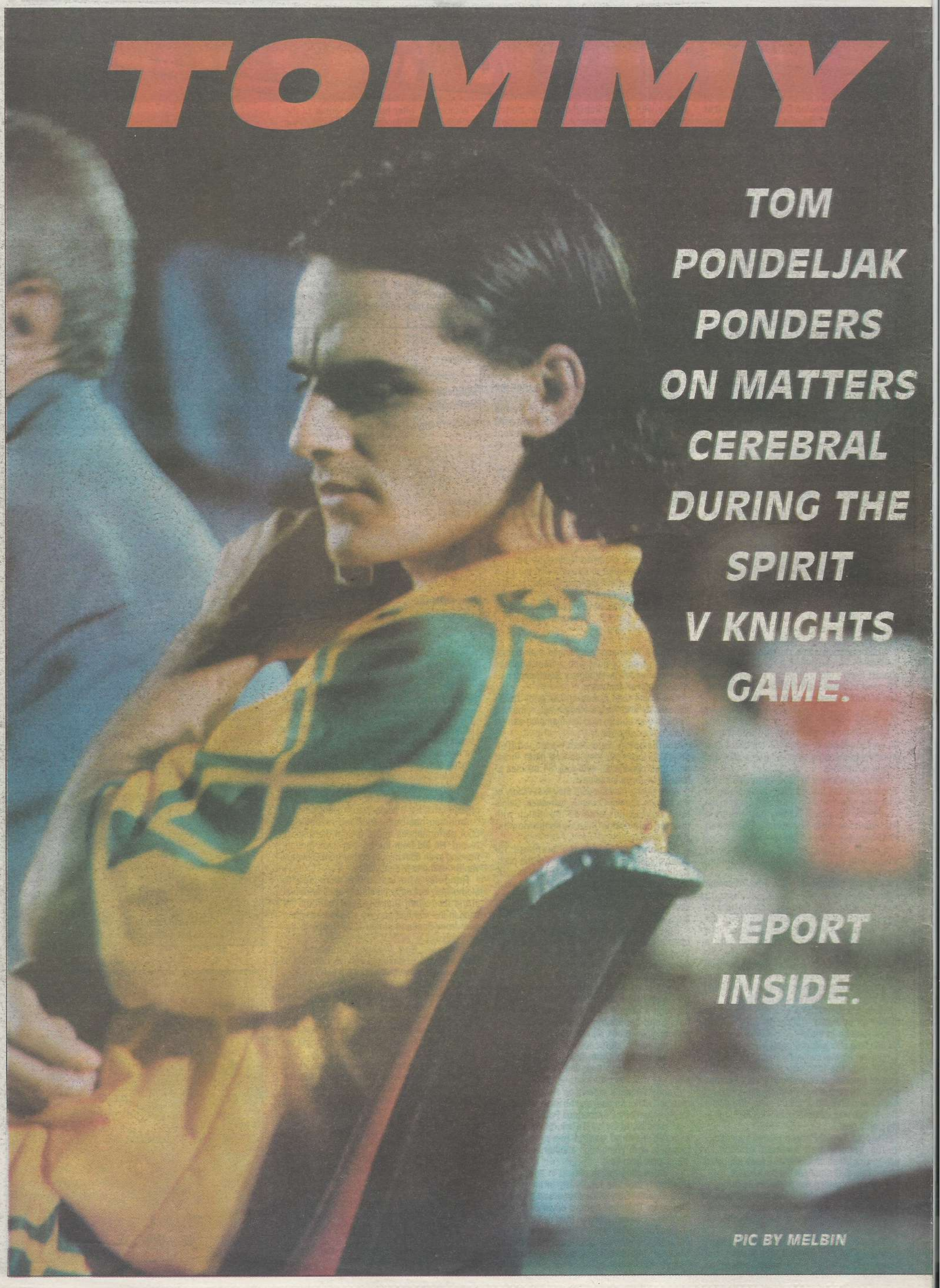
United's Yorke skips away from Everton. The Reds won 4-1.

West Ham's Neill Ruddock and Newcastle's Stuart Pearce have a diversification of opinions.



Marc Overmars during the ill-fated game versus Coventry.

TOMMY



TOM PONDELJAK PONDERS ON MATTERS CEREBRAL DURING THE SPIRIT V KNIGHTS GAME.

REPORT INSIDE.

PIC BY MELBIN